

# THE SCOPE

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Department of Pathology

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## Chairman's Corner



I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season as we move into the latter part of 2015. I am very pleased to announce that LSU Pathology moved into our new hospital space at University Medical Center on August 1, 2015. It was a very exciting and busy summer getting ready for and accomplishing the move. This is an especially proud moment for me and I am extremely thankful to all our dedicated faculty and staff for all their hard work over the past several months. We had some bumps in the early days of the move, but we have established the new laboratory and everyone is excited about the new state-of-the-art facilities. If you are interested, please visit the UMC website ([www.umcno.org](http://www.umcno.org)) Dr.'s O'Leary and Rinker have been with us for a few months and have fit in well with the department; we are excited they have joined us. Dr. Michael Leroy has recently come back home to LSU in July to join the LSU Pathology

Department. He is currently the on-site medical director of the labs at the recently opened New Orleans East Hospital where we provide all pathology and laboratory supervisory services. Three new residents joined us in July; please visit the departmental residency website (<http://www.medschool.lsuhschool.edu/pathology/residency.aspx>) for more information and updates on the residency program. Fred Lutz retired his position as the Department Business Manager at the end of June after 37 years of service. All of us are grateful to Fred for all he has done for the Department. We would like to welcome Karen Cappiello, as our new business manager. I want to thank all who have generously given to the Department over the past year and remind you that as you consider your charitable donations this holiday season, please consider making a donation to the Department. Your continued generosity allows for the enrichment and expansion of all pathology programs. Please take the time to visit our webpage ([www.medschool.lsuhschool.edu/pathology](http://www.medschool.lsuhschool.edu/pathology)) to keep abreast of the latest news in our Department.

Richard S. Vander Heide, M.D., Ph.D.

Jack Perry Strong Professor and Department Head

## Visiting Lecturers



Jennifer L. Hunt, M.D.

On November 3, 2015, the Department of Pathology held its annual Fall 2015 Emma Moss Lectureship Series. The lectureship has been a recurring event for the Department of Pathology, whereby recognizes national and international leaders in pathology, who are invited to LSU Health to address the second year medical students during their Pathology course and LSU Pathology faculty and residents. The Department was honored to host Jennifer L. Hunt, M.D. as the 2015 *Emma Sadler Moss Guest Lectureship* recipient. Dr. Hunt serves as Chair of the Department Pathology and Laboratory Services at UAMS Medical Center. Dr. Hunt presented three lectures entitled, "What Personalized Medicine Means for Your Future as a Physician", "Follicular Thyroid Tumors: Old and News and New News", and "An Approach for Working Up a Salivary Gland Tumor".

## University Medical Center Update

The University Medical Center of New Orleans has now been open just over three months and things are progressing nicely. We have over 40,000 square feet of new laboratory space. Therefore, we are hoping to expand our services in the future. As with any new venture there are always challenges, thanks to our exceptional team, we were able to work through it. Overall the faculty and staff are settling in nicely.

In other news, University Medical Center of New Orleans, Blood Bank now offers an on-line Specialist in Blood Bank Technology (SBB) program. The goal of the program is to prepare competent entry-level Specialists in Blood Banking Technology/Transfusion Medicine in the cognitive, psychomotor and affective learning domains. Graduates of this program will be able to transition into entry level supervisors, managers, reference laboratory technologists and educators in all areas of Transfusion Medicine and research.

This field is progressing and the SBB certification will expose graduates to new ideas and interactions with a diverse group of people as well as improve and strengthen their understanding of transfusion medicine. Applications are currently being accepted for the SBB certification program. For more information, visit the blood bank webpage (<http://www.umcno.org/SBBprogram>) or email Karen Kirkley or Leslie Granier at ([BB.education@LCMHealth.org](mailto:BB.education@LCMHealth.org)).

## Announcements & Accolades

### Welcome to The Department of Pathology!

**Michael LeRoy, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgical Pathology and Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine**, Dr. LeRoy completed his residency at LSU. Dr. Leroy then did a blood bank/transfusion medicine fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis and completed a one year surgical pathology fellowship at MD Anderson in Houston. He returned to LSU and joined the pathology team in July 2015 as the Medical Director of Labs at New Orleans East Hospital.

**Karen Cappiello, Business Manager**, Karen comes to us from within LSU Health System and has 15 years of academic administrative experience. Prior to her joining our Department she was the business manager for the Family Medicine Department. She joined the pathology team in July 2015.

**Amber Harrell, Administrative Assistant**, Amber also comes to us from within the LSU system, formally the Administrative Assistant for the Department of Cardiopulmonary Science.



Amber Harrell



Karen Cappiello



Aaron Coulon

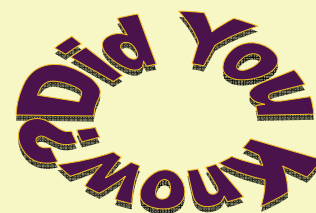
### Congratulations! Well Done!

Congratulations to **Aaron Coulon** he is the recipient of the 2014-2015 *Carl F. Tucker Memorial Pathology Award*. The award is given to the L3 student who demonstrates academic excellence in pathology in their L2 year.

## Department Trivia

Traditionally, LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans, Department of Pathology has been most recognized as a center for research in?

- A. Cancer
- B. Cardiovascular Disease
- C. Molecular Pathology
- D. Tropical Medicine



ANSWER: B

## Faculty Corner

Our three newest faculty members, Dr.'s O'Leary, Rinker and LeRoy are settling in nicely. Dr. Rinker gives her take on moving to New Orleans and her experiences thus far...

Since joining the faculty in August, I have quickly acclimated to life and food in New Orleans. I am firmly committed to LSU's educational mission and have enjoyed working with trainees during their hematopathology and surgical pathology rotations. I'm particularly excited about the opportunity to be involved in a resident project through the EQuIP program focusing on improvement of the bone marrow biopsy process at University Medical Center-NO. While I have a special interest in the investigation, development, and implementation of diagnostic methodologies in flow cytometry, I also look forward to working on collaborative projects with clinical and basic science faculty within both the hematopathology and anatomic pathology arenas.— Dr. Elizabeth Rinker

## Resident Corner

The 2014-2015 Academic year has come to a successful completion with a festive graduation celebration honoring our graduates, Dr. Caroline Alquist, Dr. Theresa Nuttli, Dr. Tong Yang and Dr. Sharon Fox. In addition to the celebration of the graduates, the residency program honored Dr. Tracy Dewenter with the Annual Teacher of the Year Award. Dr. Dewenter is well-deserving of the award. The residents also honored Ms. Fran Gibbens for her hard work in the Histology lab at UMC. The evening was enjoyed by all!

Post-graduation, our graduates have moved on with impressive plans which include, Dr. Nuttli, pursuing Cytopathology at the University of Mississippi and Dr. Yang training in Hematopathology at Emory. Additionally, Dr. Alquist has moved on to Dartmouth to pursue Blood Banking. Dr. Alquist and her husband have also recently welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Alice into their family and announced that they will return to New Orleans after her fellowship to practice Transfusion Medicine at Ochsner. Dr. Fox plans to continue her NIH funded research in Digital Pathology and Eye Tracking in the New Orleans area while collaborating with Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital.

The first half of the Academic Year has been busy for the current residents as they get accustomed to their new home at University Medical Center-New Orleans (UMC-NO). Collaborative activities with the hospital continue to include the multidisciplinary Enhancing Quality Improvement through Patient Safety (EQuIP) rotation. Within the School of Medicine, the residents also continue to engage the students both in the Freshman Gross Anatomy Course and in the Medical Student Interest Group in Pathology (SIPS).

Congratulations to Dr. Stephanie Moss (PGY2) for her appointment to the LSU Graduate Medical Education Committee, Dr. Ellen Connor (PGY3) and Dr. Meaghen Ashby (PGY2) for their appointments as Resident Liaisons to the SIPS group.

With the close of 2015 Chief Resident Dr. Christin Tsao's (PGYIV) term comes to an end. The program and the department would like to thank her for her year of service and her leadership particularly as we transitioned into the new hospital. Dr. Tsao will graduate in June and intends to start a Hematopathology Fellowship at the University of Indiana in July of 2016. Stay tuned for the announcement of the 2016 Pathology Chief Resident.

Congratulations as well to our other seniors, Dr. Supriya Donthamsetty and Dr. Harry Porterfield. Dr. Porterfield has accepted a fellowship at the University of Iowa in Microbiology. Dr. Donthamsetty has accepted a Surgical Pathology Fellowship position at the University of Southern California- Los Angeles. Also, Dr. Donthamsetty (PGY4) and her family welcomed their third child, Zubin in April. Lastly, congratulations to Dr. Meaghen Ashby (PGY2) who was married in November in South Carolina.



Dr.'s McGoe and Alquist



Dr.'s Nuttli and McGoe



Dr.'s Fox and McGoe



Dr.'s Yang and McGoe

## Resident Corner Cont...

The recruiting process is in full swing with over 500 candidates applying for the 3 internship slots. Interviews will continue through January and new internship match results will be announced in the spring.



Right, Dr. Li, Dr. Ashby, Dr. and Mrs. Vinson



Dr. Taso Shares a Picture with her Mother



Left, Mr. Alquist and Dr. Alquist and her Parents

## Resident Publications

**Dr. Julie Li (PGY2):** Sudden Cardiac Death caused by an Uncommon Disease. J LA State Med Soc 2015 (March/April); 167(3): 105-108.

**Dr. Supriya Donthamsetty (PGY4):** Coauthored a Guide to Pathology in the Gross Anatomy Cadaver submitted to MedEdPortal.

**Dr. Harry Porterfield (PGY4) and Dr. Meaghen Ashby (PGY2):** Mitral Stenosis at Autopsy. J LA State Med Soc 2015 (May/Jun); 167(3):144-146.

**Dr. Reggie Thomasson (PGY3) and Dr. Caroline Alquist ('15):** Abdominal pain and peripheral eosinophilia. J LA State Med Soc 2015 (Sept/Oct); 167(5): 244-246.

**Dr. Reggie Thomasson (PGY3):** Cough and Shortness of Breath in a Noncompliant Patient with HIV/AIDS. J LA State Med Soc 2015 (July/August); 167(4): 202-204.

## Resident Presentations

**Dr. Ellen Connor (PGY3)** presented her poster, entitled "Impact of a Quality Improvement / Patient Safety Rotation Experience for Residents" at the annual EQuIP Research Day in May 2015.

**Dr. Supriya Donthamsetty (PGY4)** presented her poster, entitled "Implementation of a Self Audit in Point of Care Testing as a Tool to Improve Laboratory Oversight" both locally at the annual EQuIP Research Day and nationally at the CAP meeting in Nashville.

**Dr. Harry Porterfield (PGY4)** presented his poster, "Comprehensive Comparison of Nucleic Acid Based Detection of *Trichomonas vaginalis* on the Cobas4800 System to Cytological Identification on Liquid Based Papanicolaou Preparations" at the American Society for Microbiology meeting in May 2015.

**Dr. Stephanie Moss (PGY2)** presented her poster: "Delayed autopsy reporting: a self study and root cause analysis" at the annual USCAP meeting in spring 2015.

**Dr. Sharon Fox ('15)** poster: "Image Recognition: Orientation and Visual Field Bias in Digital Pathology" accepted to USCAP 2016 in Seattle.

## Resident Updates

The Residency Program asks for your help in updating your information. We would like to encourage you to do your part to update our files with your current status and contact information. Additionally, we would like to know if you could network with our current trainees as they start to formulate their own ideas about fellowships and/or job prospects. Mentorship and networking are great ways to increase the success of our graduates! To update your information, please email the Program Coordinator, Leslie Davis at [ldavis@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:ldavis@lsuhsc.edu). Thanks in advance for your support.

## Season's Greetings

*The Department of Pathology  
would like to extend our very best wishes for a  
Happy Holiday Season.*