Pathology in the Hot Zone (see Comment)

When two patients with Ebola infection were admitted to a specialized, high-containment treatment facility at Emory University Hospital for nearly three weeks in August, Emory pathologists and clinical lab staff were there to contribute to their care. The two American aid workers had contracted the virus while on a humanitarian mission to West Africa amid the largest recorded Ebola outbreak in history. They were airlifted to Emory, one of only four U.S. institutions with a fully self-contained isolation unit and a team of specialist doctors and nurses that has trained for more than a decade to safely treat dangerous infectious diseases of this kind. In support of that effort, a small cadre of volunteers from Pathology and Emory Medical Labs (EML) worked to install, validate, and operate a battery of instruments inside the isolation unit that provided vital metabolic, coagulation, microbiologic and other diagnostic testing for these patients, completely separate from the rest of the hospital and from the outside world. Associate Professors Charlie Hill, M.D., Ph.D., and Eileen Burd, Ph.D., Clinical Chemistry Fellow Emily Ryan, Ph.D., and Professor Jim Ritchie, Ph.D., together with point-of-care professionals from EML, spearheaded the creation and operation of this unique laboratory. Assistant Professor, clinical microbiologist, and infectious disease physician Colleen Kraft, M.D., along with our coagulation specialists Sandy Duncan, M.D., and Annie Winkler, M.D., were among those who provided their expertise to the care of these two patients, the first ever treated for Ebola infection within the U.S.

Comment: We are all proud that Emory has the facilities, expertise, and compassion to care for these patients, and we’re tremendously proud of the Emory professionals who were involved in their successful care.

La Crème de la Crème

If you go looking for the world’s highest-impact scientists, you’re sure to find Emory Pathologists. That’s what happened when Thomson Reuter assembled its list of "Highly Cited Researchers" (http://highlycited.com) this year. It identified 3,215 leaders in 21 fields, ranging from space science to mathematics, who wrote the greatest number of highly cited papers during the past decade (2002-2012), and so ranked in the top 1% for extraordinary, sustained scholarly impact. Among the seven Emory faculty who made the list, two are in our Department: Professor and GRA Eminent Scholar Eric Hunter, Ph.D., whose work on retroviral transmission puts him in the pantheon for the category of microbiology, and Candler Professor Bali Pulendran, Ph.D., in the field of immunology, for his groundbreaking work on how immune responses are initiated and controlled.

Bali Pulendran, PhD, Eric Hunter, PhD

To contribute to the next newsletter, send an email to Donna Martin (dmart06@emory.edu).
NEW FACULTY—Ross Fasano, MD

Hematology/Oncology at CNMC and George Washington before joining the faculty there in 2010. Along the way, he discovered a love for transfusion medicine that led him also to pursue a fellowship in that subspecialty at the National Institutes of Health during his final two years of training. That unique background left him triply Board-certified and well prepared to serve as Associate Director of Transfusion Medicine and Director of the Chronic Transfusion Program at his prior institution, where he also cared for children with cancers and inherited blood disorders as a pediatric hematologist/oncologist. Dr. Fasano will continue all those activities when he joins us on September 15 as part of our world-class pediatric transfusion group within the Center for Transfusion and Cellular Therapies, dividing his time between Grady Hospital and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. Please join in welcoming Dr. Fasano into our Department.

Case Reports

Two more Emory faculty have been elected to lead major national organizations in our specialty: Assistant Professor Alexis Carter, M.D., our Director of Pathology Informatics, is serving this year as President of the Association for Pathology Informatics (API), the world’s only professional society dedicated to this vital subspecialty. Dr. Carter is the first Emory faculty member to preside over the API in its nearly 15-year history. And Associate Professor Charlie Hill, M.D., Ph.D., has begun a cycle of leadership positions as the President-Elect (2014), President (2015), and Past-President (2016) of the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP). In so doing, Dr. Hill becomes the third Emory pathologist to lead the AMP, following Professors Angie Caliendo, M.D., Ph.D., (in 2004) and Karen Mann, M.D., Ph.D., (in 2010).

Summer is the season for teaching awards, as the academic year comes to an end and graduates think back about those who had the greatest positive impact on their training. This year’s Pathology residents bestowed well-deserved honors on Assistant Professors Jim Little, M.D., (our Director of Surgical Pathology at Midtown) and Mike Rossi, Ph.D., (a specialist in molecular genetic testing and cytogenetics) who took home the Golden Apple awards for outstanding teaching in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, respectively, and they chose Professor, Vice Chair, and Residency Co-Director Dan Brat, M.D., Ph.D., as this year’s Annalee Boyette awardee for his outstanding contributions to the residency. The 2014 graduating medical students chose our erstwhile resident, ex-Chief Resident, and current Neuropathology Fellow Stewart Neill, M.D., to receive the coveted Golden Pager award, recognizing him as the house-staff member who contributed the most to their training, and making him the first Pathology trainee in memory ever to receive that award. And, of course, it wouldn’t be summertime if Professor Whit Sewell, M.D., our legendary Director of Undergraduate Education, hadn’t reaped high accolades from those same graduating medical students, who named him both as their Best Teacher in preclinical coursework and as an Honorary Member of their class.
As they set off to Haiti this summer as volunteers for Project Medishare, ten Emory medical students bid a grateful "Mesi!" to Professor Tony Gal, M.D., for teaching them Haitian Creole (Kreyòl ayisyen). Spoken by more than 10 million Haitians, their creole is a melange of Portuguese, Spanish, West African languages and French. In addition to his duties as a pulmonary pathologist, Dr. Gal regularly offers an elective in medical French to the Emory medical students.

REMINDER:
The Farewell Reception for Dr. Chuck Parkos is September 8th at 5pm in the School of Medicine Lobby.
Don't forget to RSVP here:
http://www.evite.com/l/xC7XpE74Wx

Do you know these future pathologists? For clues, go to: http://path.emory.edu/Images/Picnic-2014/
It won’t be a solo practice for long: On December 1, Emory-trained pathologist Kevin Harrell, M.D., will welcome aboard Sadaf Ilyas, M.D., as his colleague in the Pathology service at Emory Johns Creek Hospital (EJCH). The addition of Dr Ilyas marks the steady growth of our affiliated practice at EJCH, which Dr Harrell has staffed almost single-handedly since soon after the 110-bed hospital opened in 2007 to serve the growing northeastern exurbs of Atlanta. He was ideally prepared to take on this new practice, having trained in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, including a year as Chief Resident, in our residency at Emory, followed by two years in a local private group practice at Southern Regional Medical Center, where he honed his generalist skills. He brought those skills with him to EJCH as the sole founding member of the Pathology Section of Emory Specialty Associates (ESA), a wholly-owned, non-faculty affiliate of The Emory Clinic that combines the business model of a private practice with the contracts, billing services, and other resources of Emory Healthcare. Dr Harrell deserves great credit for the success of ESA Pathology (including the perfect score the EJCH clinical lab received on its recent CAP inspection), which benefits from his excellent diagnostic and management skills as well as his strong rapport with the clinicians, technical staff, and administrators at EJCH. He (and we) have also gotten tremendous help from John Cochran, M.D., a local pathologist and 1999 graduate of our AP/CP residency who serves as chief consultant to ESA Pathology, and whose business acumen and deep knowledge of the Atlanta marketplace have proven invaluable along the way. The clinical excellence and financial strength of ESA Pathology make it possible to add Dr Ilyas, who recently completed our Surgical Pathology Fellowship, onto the team on a half-time basis this year. Congratulations and thanks to all three of these colleagues. (A special shout-out to Dr Cochran, too, for his recent appointment as Clinical Director of the Laboratory Accreditation Program of The Joint Commission.)
You will find a digital copy of the annual residents/fellow photo on Blackboard:

1. Go to www.path.emory.edu
2. In the right bar, select 'Blackboard'
3. Log on with your University Net id and password
4. Click on 'Pathology Departmental Site', then 'Annual Pathology Photos'
5. Select 'Pathology Residents / Fellows — 2014 — 2015
6. Click on the link under 'Pathology Residents / Fellows — 2014 — 2015
7. To save, right-click photo, then 'Save Picture as…' to select file destination.

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