Emory Pathology Again Among the Top 3 for NIH Funding (see Comment)

A surge of grant awards in the closing weeks kept Emory securely within the top tier of Pathology departments nationwide, as measured by the amount of funding received from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). With $32.5 million of NIH research and training support received during the 2014 federal fiscal year, which ended on September 30, Emory Pathology marked its fourth consecutive year among the top 3 NIH-funded Pathology departments in the U.S., and its seventh straight year among the top 5. The official rankings, which take into account both direct and indirect costs of grants and fellowships but exclude contracts, are compiled annually by the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research based on data released by the NIH. Pathology’s third-place showing made it Emory’s highest-ranked department for NIH funding in 2014. The Department accounted for 14.5% of all NIH support to the School of Medicine, which itself ranked 18th nationally among medical schools for the year. A broader measure of grant, fellowship, and contract awards from all outside sources, compiled by the School, revealed that 54 faculty and trainees in our Department were awarded a total of $50.5 million in the fiscal year that ended August 31.

Comment: Congratulations again to all our investigators; to the outstanding administrative staff who support them; and to everyone else who helps create an environment where world-class scholarship can thrive.

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

Sometimes we just get lucky. Dr Uma Krishnamurti had been perfectly content for nearly 10 years as a Pittsburgh-based surgical pathologist and cytopathologist in the Allegheny Health Network and as a faculty member at Temple University. She was Director of Cytology at two major hospitals and Associate Director of the residency program there, and had been promoted to Associate Professor in 2011. She had no intention of moving. But when her husband, a pediatric hematologist, was offered an irresistible new post at CHOA, she found herself looking for opportunities in Atlanta at the same time we’d begun looking for someone exactly like her. So it came to pass that, on November 1, our Department welcomed a highly skilled and delightful new colleague with special expertise in breast and gynecologic pathology and a strong commitment to resident education onto our faculty at Grady Hospital. This is not the first time Dr Krishnamurti has relocated, though: Born and educated in New Delhi, she had already completed her Pathology training there before moving in 1993 to the University of Minnesota, where she earned her Ph.D. in Pathobiology and began a second Pathology residency that she subsequently completed, along with a Cytopathology fellowship, at the University of Pittsburgh. All of that — plus a bit of luck — brought Dr Krishnamurti into our Department. We count ourselves lucky indeed to have her here, and wish her many happy, successful years on our Emory Pathology faculty.

Case Reports

Our faculty’s conquest of leadership posts in major Pathology organizations continues. Two months ago, Professor Volkan Adsay, M.D., our Vice Chair and Director of Anatomic Pathology, was named Vice President of the U.S.-Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP), putting him on track to becoming USCAP President for a two-year term that will begin in April 2016. USCAP is the largest and most distinguished academic professional organization for anatomic pathologists in North America. Dr Adsay will be the second Emory pathologist ever to lead the USCAP, joining Professor Sharon Weiss, M.D., who was USCAP President in 1997-98.

Our residents are taking over the world, too. Cliff Sullivan, M.D., one of our PGY-4 Chief Residents, was elected Vice Chair of the Resident Council of the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) for this year and will become its Chair in October 2015. Meanwhile, our other PGY-4 Chief, Lauren Stuart, M.D., M.B.A., is currently Chair of the Residents Forum for the College of American Pathologists (CAP), while her PGY-3 colleague, Tesha Guillory, M.D., serves as its Vice Chair; their yearlong terms continue until September 2015.
Case Reports

Chalk up another one for Assistant Professor Sean Stowell, M.D., Ph.D., as a recipient of the NIH Director’s Early Independence Award. This prestigious $1.25 million, 5-year grant is designed to enable “exceptional junior scientists to ... start an independent research career at a supportive institution” (that’s us!) without doing a post-doctoral fellowship first. It will support Dr Stowell’s research on the glyobiology and immunology of red blood cell transfusion. The NIH awarded only 17 such grants nationwide in 2014.

What does it take to win the Neustein Memorial Award from the Society for Pediatric Pathology (SPP) three times? Ask the only person who’s ever done it: Professor Bahig Shehata, M.D. This distinguished award honors the application of novel technology to the study of pediatric disease. Dr Shehata’s unprecedented three-peat came in September at the SPP’s annual meeting in Birmingham, England. Here’s a hint: Spend decades amassing the world’s largest collection of tissue samples from children with histiocytoid cardiomyopathy; use genome-wide sequencing to identify candidate mutations; and then show that mutating one of those candidates (ndufb11) causes cardiac anomalies in zebrafish.

Professor Guido Silvestri, M.D., Ph.D., has been named as Vice Chair and Director of our Department’s top-ranked Division of Experimental Pathology. An internationally acclaimed researcher who studies HIV pathogenesis, prevention, and treatment using non-human primate models, Dr. Silvestri is also the Georgia Research Alliance Distinguished Scholar in Comparative Pathobiology and directs the Division of Microbiology and Immunology at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center.

Interesting Links

Pathologists in the News

Colleen Kraft
Emory Magazine
Doc of the Day—What it takes to care for patients with Ebola virus while President Obama visits

James Ritchie
USA Today
Latest Ebola fear: Safety of lab equipment

Erin Meyer
11 Alive (Video)
What your blood type says about you

Colleen Kraft
GQ
Out of Ebola

Gabe Sica
Emory Update
Annual external research funding total again exceeds $500 million

Sean Stowell
Emory Update
NIH selects Emory pathologist for Early Independence Award
· http://news.emory.edu/stories/2014/10/stowell_early_independence_award/campus.html

Colleen Kraft
The New York Times
90.1 WABE
An Ebola Doctor’s Return From the Edge of Death
· http://wabe.org/post/emory-doctors-detail-treating-anonymous-ebola-patient-we-didnt-know-if-he-was-going-survive
You will find a digital copy of the annual faculty 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'.

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You will find a full slideshow of all the photos here:
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 'Photo Repository', then 'Annual Pathology Photos'.

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Farewell Reception: Charles Parkos, MD, PhD — September 2014:

On September 15, our Department bid farewell and good luck to Professor and Vice Chair Chuck Parkos, MD, PhD, who left Emory after 17 years on our faculty to become the Carl V. Weller Chair of Pathology at the University of Michigan.

If you wish to view the individual photos, they are in Blackboard, Pathology Departmental Site under 'Photo Repository'.

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