Research News

Dr. Chinnaswamy Jagannath and his Co-Principal Investigator Dr. Marie-Claire Elisabeth Gauduin from the Texas Biomedical Primate Centre in San Antonio have been awarded a 5 year grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The $4,909,746 award will fund their studies into the development of vaccines against tuberculosis.

https://www.uth.edu/media/story.htm?id=8a3c9396-ddc2-4c12-956d-111325a38e0e

Dr. Jeffrey Actor, PhD, was awarded nearly $1.7 million by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for a 2 year project to investigate use of Lactoferrin as a novel therapeutic to combat Tuberculosis disease. Tuberculosis, caused by the intracellular bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB), infects roughly a third of the world’s population. Host immunity plays a major role in primary disease development, with formation of granulomas to limit initial dissemination of the bacilli. However, MTB within granulomas are protected from immune-mediated killing due to the sequestration of infected macrophages from immune effector cells. The research will evaluate bioactivity of oral delivered novel recombinant Lactoferrin for use as a preclinical research tool to alter granuloma pathology to tuberculosis-related factors. The goal is to use Lactoferrin to limit development of tuberculosis lung disease, thus essentially establishing a “firebreak” to slow transmission of organisms between individuals. Dr. Shen-An Hwang, PhD, is also an active investigator on the grant. The research is a collaborative project with Dr. Marian Kruzel, PhD, of PharmaReview Corporation, representing the second phase of a collaborative small business award (STTR).
Resident and Fellows

June and July represent times of change for our department. During this period, senior residents move on to the next step in their professional careers. Several are remaining in the Houston area, while others are moving further afield. We certainly wish them success wherever their individual path leads.

Destinations of our most recent “graduating” residents:

Samer Baba, D.O.
Surgical Pathology, MD Anderson Cancer Center, 2017-2018

Elizabeth Jacobi, M.D.
Surgical Pathology, Houston Methodist Hospital, 2017-2018
Cytopathology, MD Anderson Cancer Center, 2018-2019

Yumi Kojima, D.O.
Surgical Pathology, MD Anderson Cancer Center, 2017-2018

Josh Showalter, M.D.
Hematopathology, Houston Methodist Hospital, 2017-2019

Sadie Sultana, M.D.
Hematopathology, Houston Methodist Hospital, 2017-2019

Nidhi Tandon, M.D.
GYN pathology, MD Anderson Cancer Center, 2017-2018

Anneliese Velez Perez, M.D.
Surgical Pathology, Houston Methodist Hospital, 2017-2018
Cytopathology, MD Anderson Cancer Center, 2018-2019

We are happy to introduce our new residents who have come to Houston from several parts of the world.

PGY1

Nfn Aakash, M.D., PGY1
Liaquat of Medical &Health Sciences Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan

Manuel Arana Rosainz, M.D., PGY1
Universidad de Ciencias Medicas de la Habana, Havana, Cuba
Hanadi El Achi, M.D.,
Universite Saint-Joseph
Faculte de Medicine,
Beirut, Lebanon

Mei Lin, M.D., PGY1
Peking University Health
Science Center, Peking,
China

Albina Murzabdillaeva,
M.D., PGY1
Akhunbaev Kyrgyz State
Medical Academy Faculty of General
Medicine, Bishkek,
Kyrgyzstan

Yasir Ali, M.D., PGY1
University of Baghdad
College of Medicine,
Baghdad, Iraq

Joe John Rodriguez, M.D.,
PGY1
Ponce Health Sciences
University School of Medicine
Ponce, Puerto Rico

Haiyan Zhang, M.D., Renal
Fellow
Luzhou Medical College,
Sichuan, China

Noah D. Reilly, D.O., PGY-2
Western University of Health
Sciences,
College of Osteopathic
Medicine of the
Pacific, Pomona, California
The McGovern Medical School department of Pathology held a retreat for our residents on September 23rd and 24th 2017 at Camp Allen. The itinerary was busy and it would appear energetic.

(Click on image for access to more pictures from the retreat.)
Welcome New Faculty!

Please welcome the following new faculty members.

Dr. Hu graduated from medical school in China. He received his PhD from Loyola University Medical Centre, completed a pathology residency followed by a fellowship in surgical pathology at this same institution. Dr. Hu also completed a further fellowship in haematopathology at MD Anderson Cancer Centre.

Zhihong Hu, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Cai received an MD degree from Peking University Health Science Centre, China; a PhD in biochemistry, cell and molecular biology from the Weill Graduate School of Cornell University, NY, NY. Dr. Cai completed a pathology residency program at Case Medical Centre, Cleveland, OH, followed by a fellowship in gastrointestinal pathology at Mount Sinai Hospital and the Icahn School of Medicine, New York, NY.

Zhenjian Cai, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Moghaddam graduated from medical school in Iran. Following a residency at UMass in Worcester, MA, Dr. Moghaddam completed a surgical pathology at MD Anderson Cancer Center and a gynecology pathology fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Parnian Ahmadi Moghaddam, M.D.
A graduate of University of Texas Southwestern Medical School who completed residency in pathology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, Los Angeles, CA, followed by a fellowship in transfusion medicine at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.

Yao Ma, M.D.

Dr. Zhu received an MD from medical school in Beijing, China followed by a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the Weill Medical College, Cornell University, New York. Dr. Zhu comes to McGovern Medical School from a fellowship in cytopathology at the Cleveland Clinic.

Hui Zhu, M.D., Ph.D.

Received his MD degree from the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) and his PhD in biomedical sciences from Vanderbilt University. Dr. Ballester did post-doctoral work at UPR before returning to the US mainland to complete a residency in pathology at the NIH/NCI in Bethesda, MD followed by a fellowships in molecular genetic pathology at Baylor College of Medicine and neuropathology at Houston Methodist Hospital.

Leomar Y. Ballester, M.D, Ph.D.

Please send any news or updates to:

Dr. Diane Bick at mailto:diane.l.bick@uth.tmc.edu

Laura Newell at mailto:laura.l.newell@uth.tmc.edu