



TULANE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL of MEDICINE

PATHWAYS

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY

Volume 9, Issue 2



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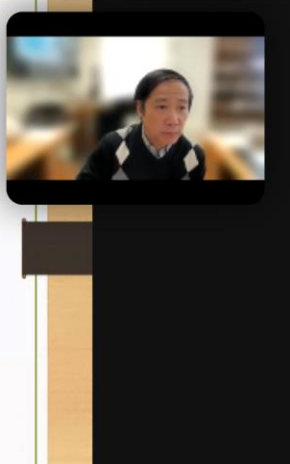
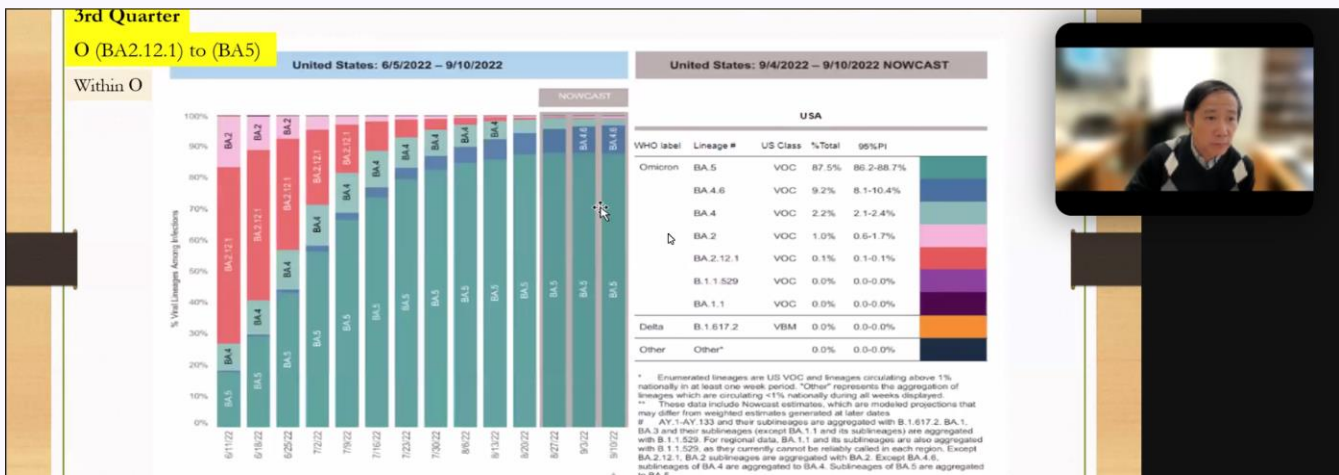
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PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT ANNUAL MEETING

The 2022 Pathology Department semi-annual Meeting was held virtually via Zoom, on Thursday, December 15, 2022. Dr. Xiao-Ming Yin, the Department chair, discussed some timely VOC topics such as the planned partnership between Tulane University and LCMC Health and the impact following the change. He shared the Department's achievements and growth in the area of research, clinical and education Dr. Yin also discussed the current situation of the Covid-19 and reminded everyone that virus is still in the community and everyone still needs to take precautions to protect themselves.



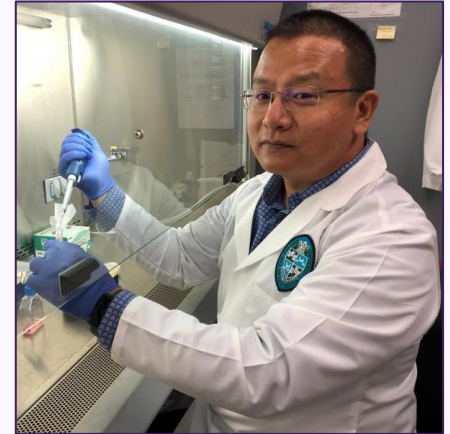
SAVE THE DATE IN 2023

Classes Begin; Jan 17 (T)
 Martin L. King Holiday; Jan 16 (M)
 Carnival Break; Feb 20-21 (M-T)
 Classes Resume; Feb 22 (W)

Spring Break; Apr 2-10 (Sun-M)
 Classes Resume; Apr 11 (T)
 Last Day of Class; May 2 (T)
 Exam Period; May 5-10 (F-W)
 Commencement; May 20 (Sat)

FACULTY NEWS

Congratulations to Dr. Zhen Lin, MD., Ph.D. on receiving NIH/NCI (R01 CA261258-02S) for his research: “Vitamin D in viral associated lung cancers” as the principal investigator. Earlier this year, Dr. Lin was awarded the Ladies Leukemia League Research Grant for developing a novel targeted oncolytic therapy for Epstein-Barr virus (EBV)-associated lymphoma. Dr. Lin is serving as an Ad hoc grant reviewer for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Special Emphasis Panel – ZCA1 TCRB-D (O1) HIV-Associated Malignancy Research Centers and joined *Frontiers in Genome Editing* as an Associate Editor.



Congratulations to Dr. Norah Alghamdi, you earned a badge!

The Tulane University Leadership Institute—working in collaboration with the Office of Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion led by the Chief Diversity Officer—offers leaders from across the university the opportunity to develop the skills and understanding necessary to contribute to institutional anti-racism initiatives at all levels of the University.

Congratulations to Dr. Loren Gragert on passing the ACHI Histocompatibility Laboratory Director Examination required for board certification. Also, Dr. Gragert is a co-investigator on a new [NIAID R01](#) “HLA Immunogenetics and kidney allograft outcomes.”

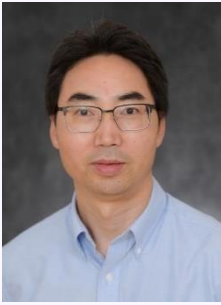


Congratulations to Patricia Snarski, a post-doctoral fellow in Dr. Savkovic's laboratory, who has been selected for a 2022-2023 Mistletoe Research Fellowship. Patricia was selected as one of the 32 fellows out of 430 candidates.

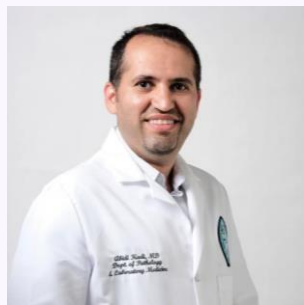


WELCOMES & FAREWELLS

The Department welcomes four new faculty members for the 2022-2023 academic year.



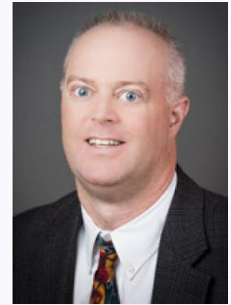
Xiaojiang Xu, PhD.
Researcher in bioinformatics
Associate Professor



Abida Kadi, PhD.
Dermatopathologist
Assistant Professor



Edwards Martin MD
Surgical pathologist,
Associate Professor



Matthew Hurford, MD.
Hematopathologist
Associate Professor

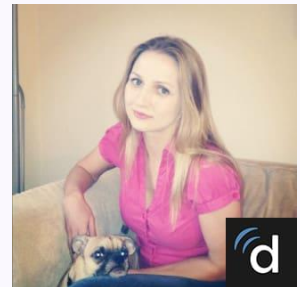
Three faculty members departed to pursue employment elsewhere



Lynette Desjarlais, MS,
instructor



Yingtao Zhang, MD
GI pathologist, Assistant Professor



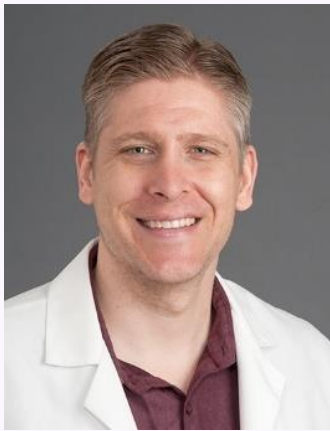
Elizaveta Belyaeva, MD
Hematopathologist,
Assistant Professor

RESIDENT NEWS

Residents and fellow Graduation

Amber Souers, MD
Completed AP/CP Residency

Current: Dermatopathology Fellowship - ProPath
Services, Dallas, TX

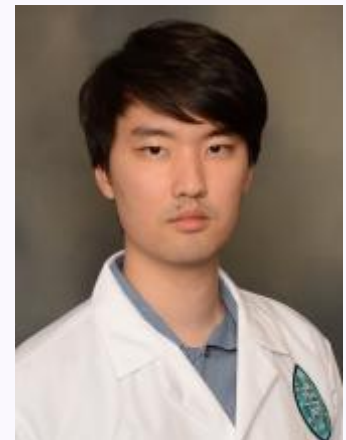


Nicholas Milligan, MD
Completed AP/CP Residency

Current: Hematopathology Fellowship - Wake
Forest School of Medicine Winston-Salem, NC

Jonathan Shih, MD
Completed AP/CP Residency

Current: Pathologist – St. Louis Pathology
Associates, St. Louis, MO



Akannsha Singh, MD
Completed AP/CP Residency

Current: Cytopathology Fellowship , TUMC-

RESIDENT NEWS

*Nathaniel McLaughlin, MD, PhD
Completed Residency (7/1/13-10/31/22)*

Started employment at Thibodaux Regional Hospital



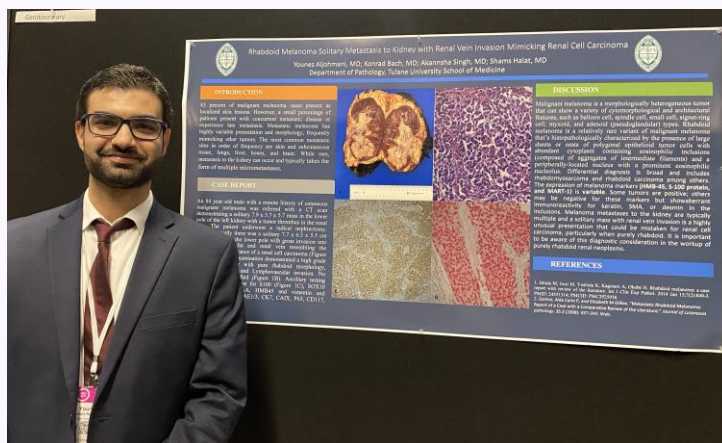
*Walter Beversdorf, MD
Completed Hemapath Fellowship (12/1/21-11/30/22)*

*Started surgical pathology fellowship at Medical
University of South Carolina*

ASCP 2022

Dr. Younes Aljohman, MD PGY II, presented a poster at the Annual American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) 2022 Meeting, September 7 – 9, 2022, Chicago, IL. The poster titled “Rhabdoid Melanoma Solitary Metastasis to Kidney with Renal Vein Invasion Mimicking Renal Cell Carcinoma.” Authors are Younes Aljohmani, MD; Konrad Bach, MD; Akannsha Singh, MD; Shams Halat, MD.

Dr. Aljohman also presented another poster at the ASCP meeting, titled: “Primary S100 Negative Amelanotic Vaginal Melanoma.” The authors of this work are: Konrad Bach, MD; Younes Aljohmani, MD; Amber Souers, MD; Shams Halat, MD



GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

Currently enrolled Fall 2022 Pathology MS students



DONAL DEVANE

Donal arrives to us from a city in the west of Ireland called Galway. He's enrolled at Tulane University to study Pathology and to compete in track and field, and cross country as a Tulane Student Athlete. He's 22 years young and his other interests include playing guitar and watching soccer.

SOPHIE DIETRICH

Sophie is originally from California but recently completed her undergraduate degree at USF in Tampa, Florida. She's very excited about being a master's student in the pathology department and a part of the Tulane community.



ELISA HOOD



Elisa is a recent graduate of Southern University A&M, where she majored in Biology Pre-Med and minored in Early Childhood Development. She's 23 years young and originally from Atlanta, GA. In her spare time, she loves playing the clarinet and soccer. She's extremely interested in attending medical school to become a pediatric orthopedic surgeon. She looks forward to learning a lot about pathology and research within the pathology field.

JALYN LeBLANC

Jaylan hails from Luling, LA and graduated from the University of Louisiana at Monroe with a degree in Biology with a concentration in Pre-Med. She's excited about pursuing her master's degree in Pathology here at the Tulane School of Medicine.



VANESSA MENARD



Vanessa feels her MS degree in Pathology will boost/strengthen her application to the Tulane BMS Ph.D. Program. She's been out of school the last six years enjoying her career as a Medical Laboratory Scientist but she's ready to contribute to the field of Pathology and laboratory Medicine as a researcher and a leader. Her interest in Molecular Medicine is drawn from her clinical laboratory experience with molecular diagnostic technology. She sees it as a significant player in the future of healthcare and wants to join forces with it.

GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

Currently enrolled Fall 2022 Pathology MS students

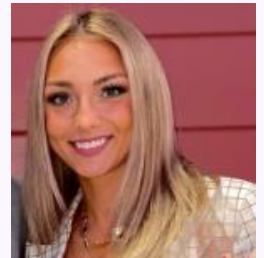


MARTIN NZEGWU

Martin is a Nigerian doctor and pathologist who has enrolled in the 2-year master's degree (with thesis) program in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. He is actively involved in research back home and has authored 80 publications with many in some high impact journals. His interest is in breast cancer research.

HALEY SCHERER

Haley has traveled to Tulane for the Molecular Medicine master's degree program from Pittsburg, PA with her boyfriend and two dogs. She's excited to strengthen her passion for science while exploring this boisterous city. Outside of science, some of the things she enjoys includes coffee, sports, and adventuring.



KENDLE TOROK

Kendle has chosen the MS Molecular Medicine program because her research interests include reproductive health, cancer pathobiology, and infectious diseases. Outside of school, she enjoys trying new foods, swimming, and volunteering at the humane society. She's excited to see what this year brings and looks forward to meeting everyone!

LORION WASHINGTON

Lorion earned a dual degree in Biology and Chemistry. She prefers the pronouns She/Her. On her free time, she enjoys watching television and hanging with friends. She's thankful to be a part of this program and cannot wait to see what the future holds.



SHANG WU

Shang is originally from China. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree at the New York Sate University at Buffalo, majoring in Biological Science and Pharmacology & Toxicology. He's here for the Molecular and Cellular Pathology MS 2-year program.

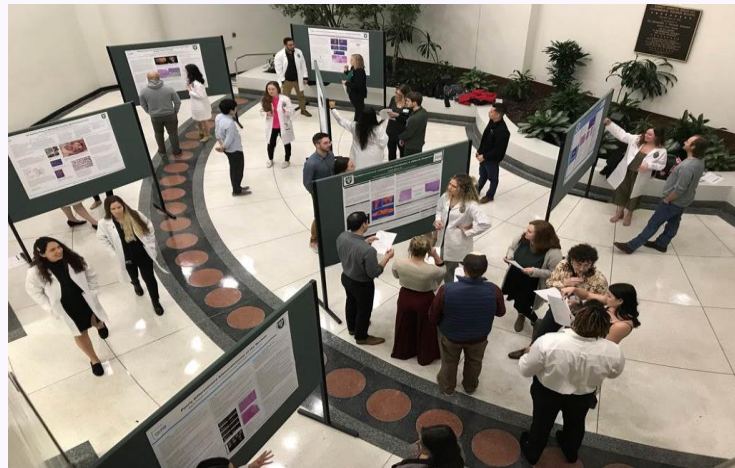
PATHOLOGIST'S ASSISTANT PROGRAM

The second class of 12 students will graduate on 17 Dec 2022. The third class of 11 students will start their clinical rotation in Jan 2023. The fourth class of 12 students will start in Jan. 2023.

The PA Program has been accredited by The National Accreditation Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NACCLS) for 5 years in April 2022.

Team: Sarah Garner (Program Director), Marissa Spencer, Loren Yoxtheimer (Medical Director). Roberto Diaz Del Valle (Coordinator).

The Pathologists' Assistant Program hosted a poster session where graduating second year students presented their clinical cases to faculty, first year students, and the Tulane community.



PHD PROGRAM AT GLANCE

Currently 10 students in 7 laboratories

2 students joined us in 2022

2 students completed dissertation defense in 2022 (Hartono, Collins)

2 passed qualifying Examination (Dribus, Wager)

2 submitted prospectus (Mukhopadhyay, Dribus)

1 student won awards: CALS graduate research award (Natacha Jn Simone)

2 students co-authored three papers.

4 students presented 5 oral/poster presentation in national meetings

1 presented at Nov 2022 BMS Retreat as first author

4 presented at the fall Department's research conferences

PhD graduate program Director: Gilbert Morris

RESEARCH NEWS

Faculty members most notable in receiving a Research Project Grant Program (R01)



Dr. Yi-Ping Li
4 R01
\$1,525,054



Dr. Erik Flemington
3 R01
\$1,206,367



Dr. Wei Chen
2 R01
\$743,277



Dr. Tong Wu
2 R01
\$614,721

Faculty members most notable in submitting grant applications



Dr. Chiung-Kuei Huang
1 R01, 1R21, 1R35, 1 DOD



Dr. Liya Pi
1R01, 1 R21, 1 DOD



Dr. Bilon Khambu,
1 R01, 2 Foundations



Dr. Srikanta Dash
2 grant submissions



Dr. JQ Zhang
2 grant submissions



Dr. Shengmin Yan
2 grant submissions

PUBLICATION NEWS

• Publications Published or accepted in 2021

- 52 papers by 23 faculty members (14/17 of research faculty, 9/17 of clinical faculty)
- First/corresponding authors: 26 papers by 16 faculty (11 research faculty, 5 clinical faculty).
- First/corresponding authored papers with highest impact factors, top 4
 - Njock MS*, O'Grady T*, Nivelles O, Lion M, Jacques S, Cambier M, Herkenne S, Muller F, Christian A, Remacle C, Guiot J, Rahmouni S, Dequiedt F and Struman I. 2022. Endothelial extracellular vesicles promote tumour growth by tumour-associated macrophage reprogramming. **Journal of Extracellular Vesicles**. 11:e12228. *co-first authors. IF: 15.48
 - Zhang Y, Zuo T, McVicar A, Yang HL, Li YP, Chen W. Runx1 is a key regulator of articular cartilage homeostasis by orchestrating YAP, TGF β , and Wnt signaling in articular cartilage formation and osteoarthritis. **Bone Research**. 2022 Oct 28;10(1):63. IF: 13.362
 - Tang CY, Wang H, Zhang Y, Wang Z, Zhu G, McVicar A, Li YP, Chen W. GPR125 positively regulates osteoclastogenesis potentially through AKT-NF- κ B and MAPK signaling pathways. **Int J Biol Sci**. 2022 Mar 6;18(6):2392-2405. doi: 10.7150/ijbs.70620. IF: 10.52
 - Zhu G, Chen W, Tang CY, McVicar A, Edwards D, Wang J, McConnell M, Yang S, Li Y, Chang Z, Li YP. Knockout and Double Knockout of Ctsk and Mmp9 reveals a novel function of Ctsk as a regulator of gene expression in osteoclasts and bone homeostasis. **Int J Biol Sci**. 2022;18(14):5522-5538. IF: 10.52
- Most productive: first/corresponding authored (Total)
 - Yin: 5 (9), Wu: 3 (3), Alghamdi, Chen, Dash, O'Grady, Pi, Yan: 2 (2-3), Gragert: 1 (5); Li, Tian, Belyaeva: 1 (3)

A complete list of publications can be found at Department's website:

[Publications | Medicine \(tulane.edu\)](#)

NO AUTHOR FEES WILEY JOURNALS

Tulane University Libraries has reached an open access transformational agreement with Wiley, a global leader in publishing, research and education. This agreement will provide Tulane University Libraries affiliates with free access to Wiley's complete journal portfolio. More information can be found [here](#).

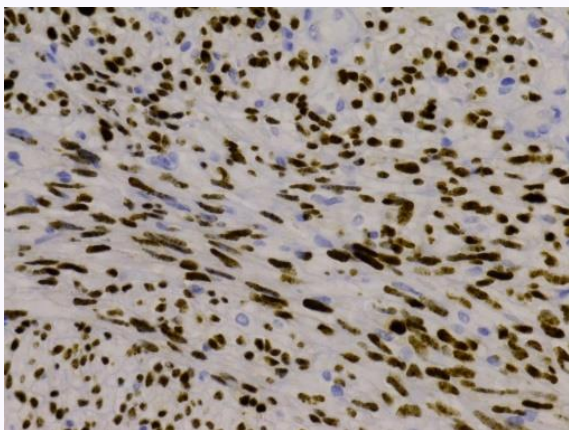
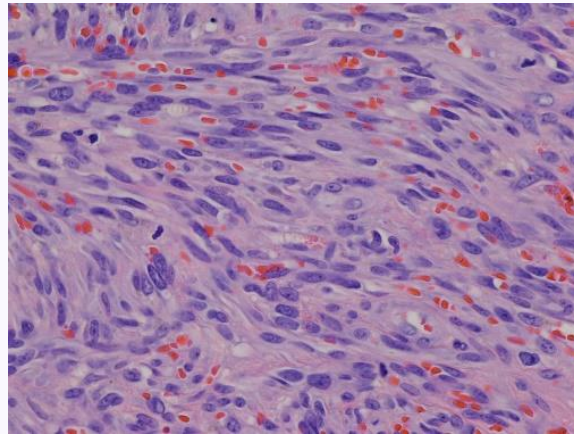
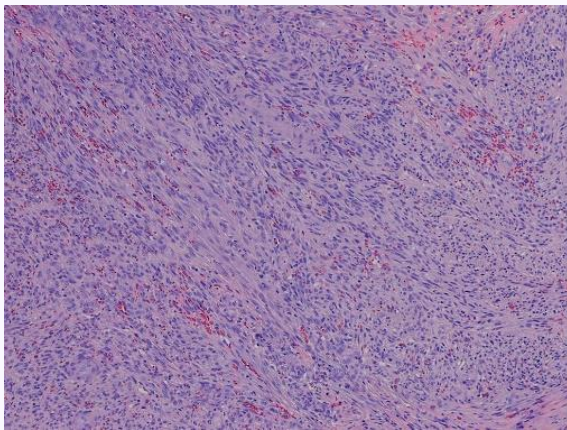
CASE OF THE MONTH

Clinical history:

An HIV seronegative, 96-year-old African-American woman with no remarkable past medical history presented with a left upper eyelid lesion, which was completely excised.

Gross description:

The specimen consisted of skin and mucosa-covered soft tissue. Immediately subjacent to the hairy edge was a 0.7 x 0.5 x 0.5 cm indurated nodule, with a mottled brown tan cut surface. A special stain was obtained, and it showed a strong nuclear immunoreactivity for HHV8 in both spindle cell component and endothelium



What is your diagnosis? (*the answer is in the last page*)

- A. Kaposiform hemangioendothelioma (KHE)
- B. Kaposi sarcoma (KS) of the eyelid
- C. Odontoameloblastoma
- D. Xanthelasma



ANNUAL DEPARTMENT PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST AND POTLUCK

The Department of Pathology hosted its annual pumpkin carving contest for Halloween on October 28th. Painting and decorating the pumpkins was the theme of the event.



ANNUAL APPRECIATION RECEPTION

Annually, the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine hosts an appreciation reception to express the gratitude for all the faculty, staff and trainees for their commitment and contribution to the Department's mission and vision. The year of 2022 has represented a significant year in which the Department has achieved notably in all areas of clinical, research and education missions. This year's lunch reception on Dec 15 was a huge success with participants not only from our own Department, but also with our colleagues from other Departments and the hospital laboratories. We are looking for another great year in 2023.



Miscellaneous

ASHI 2022

Giovanni Biagini, PhD graduate research assistant and a member of the Gragert Lab, delivered an oral abstract presentation at American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics 2022 conference in Las Vegas. The presentation titled: "HLA Dictionary 2022 - Updated Serologic Prediction Models Based on Paired DNA-Serology Assignments from NMDP Registry Typing Data."



Tulane Home Football Game

Tulane Athletic Department invited Dr. Haitao Zhang and Roberto Diaz Del Valle to the Tulane Home Football Game on November 12, to provide the academic support for the Tulane student athletes at Yulman Stadium.

UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

Women Making Waves: Closing Keynote. The Annual Women Making Waves leadership conference Wed, Mar 16, at 6:00 p.m. CT. Register [here](#)

Outstanding Alumnus Award: If you know an alumnus/a who deserves this award, go [here](#). The award will be given at the Tulane School of Medicine Class of 1973 brunch on Thursday, May 18, 2023.

Tulane Career Development Club Meeting. titled, "Interacting with a Biostatistician: What to Bring to the Table and What to Take Home" by Dr. John Lefante and Dr. Jeffrey Shaffer, Monday, January 9th, 2023; 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM. For registration click [here](#).

Useful links

[Covid-19 Testing Center](#)

[SOM Resident/Fellow COVID-19 Information](#)

[Pathology Consultative Services](#)

[SoM PowerPoint & Poster Templates](#)

[Tulane Resident and Fellow Congress \(TRFC\)](#)

[Resources for Residents & Fellows](#)

[GME Resources](#)

Case of the month answer:

B. Kaposi sarcoma (KS) of the eyelid

Did you know

Tulane faculty, residents and students have an existing account on Institute for Healthcare Improvement, IHI.org. To activate it:

Step 1: Go to [IHI](#)

Step 2: Register for an account

Step 3: Access content and tools

Let's hear from you!

Share your thoughts and updates with us, we value your feedback

Email us at: nalghamdi@tulane.edu

PATHWAYS

Volume 09

Issue 02

2022

PATHWAYS is published by
The Department of Pathology &
Laboratory Medicine
Tulane School of Medicine

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