



TULANE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL of MEDICINE

PATHWAYS

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY & LABORATORY MEDICINE
TULANE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Volume 10, Issue 2



CLINICAL NEWS



TULANE
UNIVERSITY

LCMC-TULANE PARTNERSHIP

Following a year of negotiations, the integration of Tulane Medical Center (TMC) with LCMC was accomplished full scale after the initial legal challenge to prevent it failed. East Jefferson General Hospital (EJGH) in Metairie is now Tulane's main clinical site, while the clinical pathology faculty, residents, laboratory staff and laboratory services have relocated to EJGH as the center of their services. The transition was carried out in January 2024 for most of Pathology services; the remainder of the services will relocate in early April. Pathology will initially operate as an independent entity at EJGH, while negotiations to form a collaborative team with the pathologists already established there are ongoing.

Emergency Room and some ambulatory services will remain operational at the downtown Tulane Medical Center.



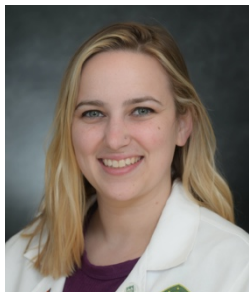
EDUCATIONAL NEWS

UPDATES ON FACULTY MEMBERS



Welcome Dr. Mercedes Ficarra, M.D., cytopathologist, who completed her residency and fellowship training at Tulane Pathology. She re-joined the Department in September 2023 as an Associate Professor.

Welcome Dr. Ibrahim Aburizik, M.D., surgical pathologist, who completed his residency at Baylor University Medical Center (TX). He joined the Department in October 2023 as an Assistant Professor



Welcome Taylor MacGowan, M.S., P.A., as an Instructor in the Pathologists' Assistant Program. She received her P.A. degree from Tulane University Pathologists' Assistant Program in 2021.

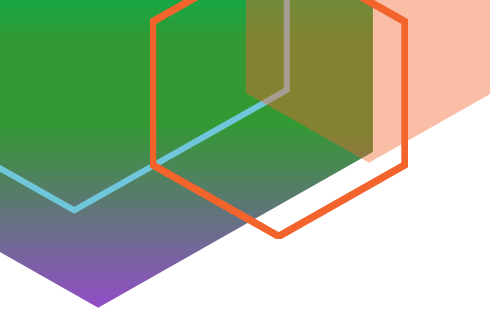
As of July 1, 2023 Dr. Loren Gragert transferred to the Department of Medicine, assuming the position of Associate Director of the HLA laboratory.



Dr. Tina O'Grady accepted a new position in the private sector.



Drs. David Borzik (June 30th) and Lorene Yoxtheimer (Sept 30th) left the Department for private practice at Arizona and North Dakota, respectively. Marissa Spencer, P.A., M.S. (Dec 31) returned to her hometown in Connecticut. We wish them the best in all their endeavors.



EDUCATIONAL NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS

As part of their graduation, residents, and fellows each received a book of their choice; the annual tradition of faculty signing a note of congratulations in the "graduation gift textbooks" continued.

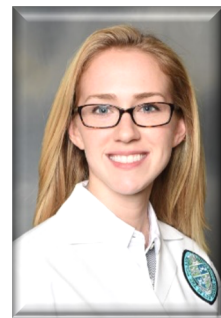
Graduating Residents



Dr. Yousif Al Rubaye



Dr. John Broussard



Dr. Dana Perez

Graduating fellows



Dr. Akannsha Singh (Cytopathology)



Dr. Bing Han (Dermatopathology)



EDUCATIONAL NEWS

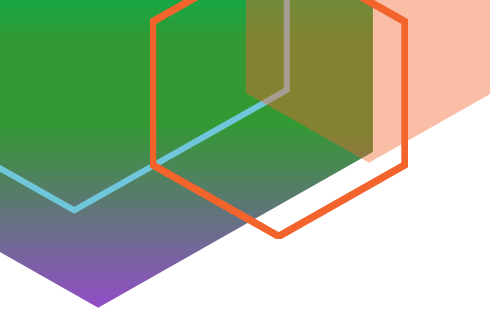
2022-2023 GRADUATION

The Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine held their annual Graduation Ceremony on June 10th at Loews New Orleans Hotel, which was the perfect backdrop for a well-deserved celebration. Laughter, good food and camaraderie ruled the event. The commitment, resilience, and dedication of fellows and residents, resulting in sterling accomplishments, were reflected upon with satisfaction and pride. Awards were presented as part of this annual ceremony in recognition for the exemplary ability and outstanding work of the fellows and residents.

Pictured (top): Current residents seated with graduating fellows and residents.

Picture (below): Bea DeLucca, Sr. GME Program Administrator (kneeling) with current residents and Dr. Ryan Craig, (center, rear), Residency Program Director.





EDUCATIONAL NEWS

Yousif Al Rubaye, M.D.(left)
AP/CP Resident
Future: Dermatopathology Fellowship
Tulane University Pathology Dept
New Orleans, LA



Akannsha Singh, M.D. (left)
Cytopathology Fellow
Future: Pathologist, Ochsner Medical Center
New Orleans, LA

Dana Perez, M.D.(left)
AP/CP Resident
Future: Surgical Pathology Fellowship
North Shore University Hospital & Long Island Jewish
Medical Center Northwell Health
Long Island, New York

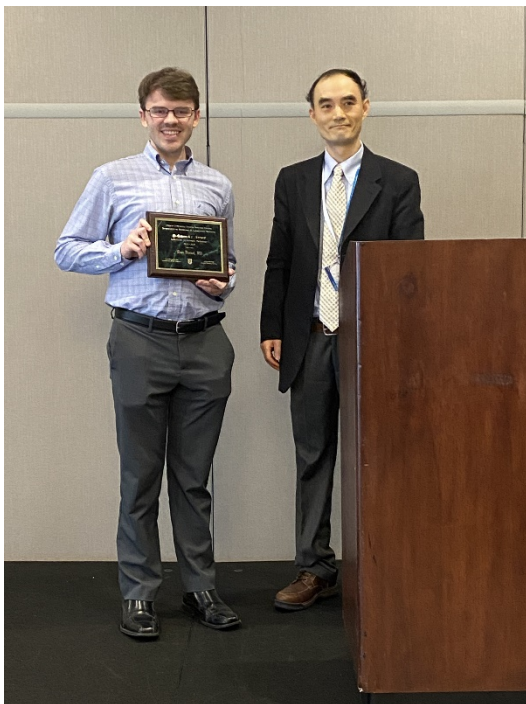




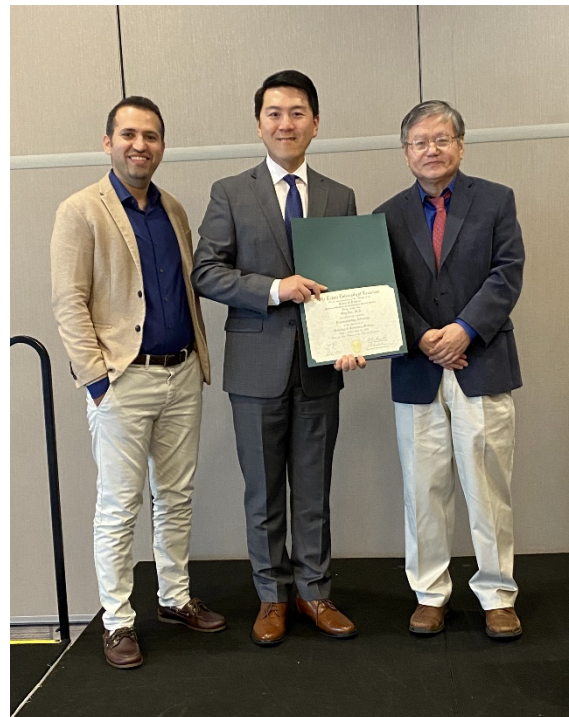
Dana Perez, M.D., received the Richard J. Reed Award for Excellence in Surgical Pathology



Younes Aljohmani, M.D., (left) received the Nina Dhurandhar, MD Award – Excellence in Cytopathology



Ross Bonnot, M.D., (left) received the Rokitansky Award – Excellence in Autopsy Pathology



Bing Han, MBBS (left) Dermopathology Fellow Future: Anne Arundel Dermatology, Atlanta, Georgia

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

**PLEASE JOIN THE PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT IN
WELCOMING OUR 2023 RESIDENCY CLASS AND FELLOWS:**



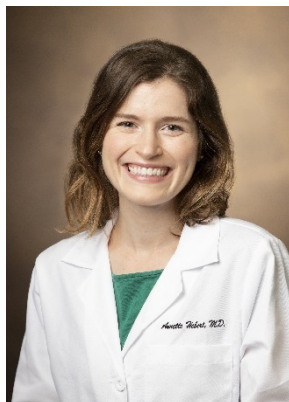
Phoenix C. Hwaung, M.D.
Louisiana State University
School of Medicine
New Orleans, LA



Carlos A. Lopez, M.D.
Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo
Leon Facultad de Medicina
Mexico



Farhanaz Panjshiri, M.D.
Tulane University
School of Medicine
New Orleans, LA



Annette E. Hebert, M.D.
PGY 2 – Louisiana State University
School of Medicine
New Orleans, LA



Yousif Al Rubaye, M.D.
Dermatopathology Fellow
Tulane University
School of Medicine
New Orleans, LA

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

PHD PROGRAM

New PhD Students in the Pathology Department 2023

Student	Mentor
Haoyang Liang	Xu
Shruthi Sampath	Lee
Yiran Song	Chen/Li
Jia Wang	Flemington
Jinwen Wang	Chen/Li
Nadeeshika Wickramarachchige	Flemington



Publications (July – Dec. 2023)

PhD students as first authors: 2. by Justin Magrath (from Sean Lee's Lab)

PhD students as co-authors: 2, by David Flinchum (from Sean Lee's Lab)

Poster presentation at BMS fall retreat (Oct 27, 2023)

Baral, Magrath, Mercer, Nguyen

External research conference presentations (July-Dec 2023)

Baral, Flinchum, Magrath, Mercer

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

PATHOLOGIST'S ASSISTANT PROGRAM

(Master's in Anatomic Pathology)

- Hosted a national meeting at Tulane in July 2023 for the American Association of Pathologists' Assistants (AAPA)
- Class of 2024 (fourth cohort) white coat ceremony December 15
- Class of 2023 (third cohort) graduates December 16
- Graduation rate: 100%
- Board examination pass rate: 100%
- Welcome Taylor MacGowan, a new PA instructor, a graduate from Tulane's P.A. program in 2021.
- Welcome Evie Burguières, J.D., M.P.S., Administrative Program Coordinator.
- Wish the best to Merissa Spencer, who is returning to Connecticut.



Photo: A gathering of first year students at poster presentations created by second year students.

SUMMARY ON RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- Faculty doing bench research as a primary mission: 18 out of 35
- 16 full time faculty in research/education. 2 in research/clinic/admin
- 1 instructor, 5 Assistant Prof., 6 Associate Prof., 6 full Prof.
- Research Faculty with some forms of research support as PI: 11 out of 18 (61%).
- 4/6 full Prof. 3/6 Associate Prof. 4/5 Assistant Prof.
- 4/6 full Prof. 3/6 Associate Prof. 3/5 Assistant Prof
- Research themes: cancer biology, viral transcription, pathogenesis of the bone and muscle, brain, colon, lung, and liver.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES (JULY-DEC 2023)

- 13 papers by 9 faculty members (7/18 of research faculty, 2/17 of clinical faculty)
- First/corresponding authors: 6 papers by 6 faculty (all research faculty).
- First/corresponding authored papers with highest impact factors, top 3
 - Jue Wang, A McVicar, Yilin Chen, Hong-Wei Deng, Z Zhao, **Wei Chen, Yi-Ping Li.** Atp6i deficient mouse model uncovers transforming growth factor- β 1/Smad2/3 as a key signaling pathway regulating odontoblast differentiation and tooth root formation. *International Journal of Oral Science* 15 (1), 35, 2023. **IF: 14.9**
 - Liu N, Zhang J, Chen W, Ma W, **Wu T.** The RNA methyltransferase METTL16 enhances cholangiocarcinoma growth through PRDM15-mediated FGFR4 expression. *J Exp Clin Cancer Res.* 2023 Oct 11;42(1):263. doi: 10.1186/s13046-023-02844-5. PMID: 37817227 **IF: 11.3**
 - Nagaoka K, Bai X, Liu D, Cao K, Mulla J, Ji C, Chen H, Nisar MA, Bay A, Mueller W, Hildebrand G, Gao JS, Lu S, Setoyama H, Tanaka Y, Wands JR, **Huang CK.** Elevated 2-oxoglutarate antagonizes DNA damage responses in cholangiocarcinoma chemotherapy through regulating aspartate beta-hydroxylase. *Cancer Lett.* 2023 Nov 15:216493. doi: 10.1016/j.canlet.2023.216493. **IF: 9.7**
- Most productive: first/corresponding authored (Total) Huang: 2 (5), Wu 1 (2), Xu 1 (2)

NEW AWARDS AS PI (JULY-DEC 2023)

- Shengmin Yan: Pinnacle Award (AASLD): 7/1/2023
- Shengmin Yan: NIH-K01, 9/14/2023
- Liya Pi, DOD, 7/15/2023

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Residents (top picture) and Administrative Staff (below) celebrate the holidays.



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](#)

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

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