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.
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.
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)
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.
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) Dermatopathology Fellow Future: Anne Arundel Dermatology, Atlanta, Georgia
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
New PhD Students in the Pathology Department 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Mentor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haoyang Liang</td>
<td>Xu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shruthi Sampath</td>
<td>Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yiran Song</td>
<td>Chen/Li</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jia Wang</td>
<td>Flemington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jinwen Wang</td>
<td>Chen/Li</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nadeeshika Wickramarachchige</td>
<td>Flemington</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
• 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 Burguieres, 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.
- 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

- 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
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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