

**Spring**  
2023

COLUMBIA PATHOLOGY  
AND CELL BIOLOGY **REPORT**

**Moving Forward**

**Faculty in Spotlight**

Drs. Yvette Tanhehco and Anette Wu

**New Faculty**

Dr. Anup K. Biswas

**Residency-Fellowship Program**

Meet Our New 2023 Residents and Fellows



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### Columbia Pathology and Cell Biology Report

#### Chair

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#### ON THE COVER:

Image by Adobe Firefly

## Preparing for Change

Kevin A. Roth, M.D., Ph.D., Chair  
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**T**HIS is my penultimate message from the chair at Columbia University and is being composed in the midst of an open search for my successor. There is still much to be accomplished prior to my departure in August, and I hope to assist in the recruitment process actively; however, I can't help but reflect on my past eight years in the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology. It has been a time of tremendous personal and professional growth and significant departmental accomplishments. Together, we have taken on many challenges, none as life-altering as the COVID pandemic, but we faced both expected (e.g. EPIC implementation) and unexpected events (e.g. the Winter Storm of 2022, which caused massive flooding of several departmental clinical labs) with professionalism and a sense of dedication. We have grown stronger together.

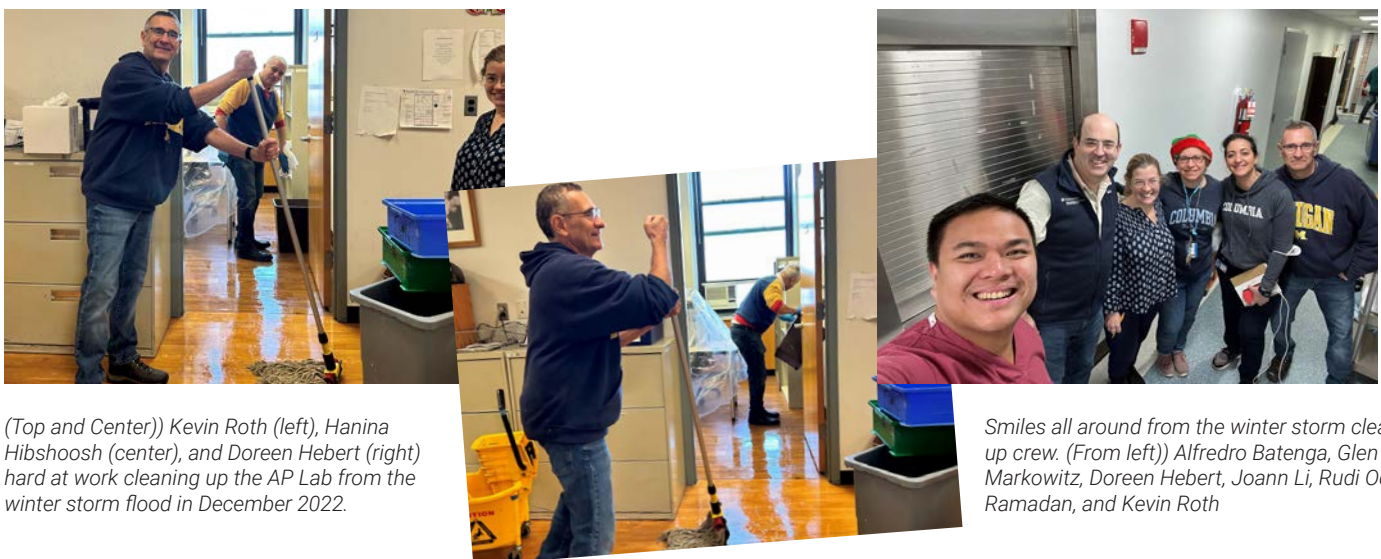
I am forever grateful to have had the honor of leading and getting to know the remarkable individuals who call this department "home". From administrators, clinicians, fellows, graduate students, laboratory assistants, researchers, residents, and support staff, you are the most dedicated, intelligent, motivated, and persistent group of individuals I have ever had the pleasure of working with. At the same time, you don't suffer a fool for Chair. You have challenged, questioned, and motivated me on appropriate occasions, and you possess the "grit" that makes Columbia University and New York City such special places to work and live.

I had the honor of taking over the Chair position from Dr. Mike Shelanski, who remains a great departmental supporter and institutional leader. Mike truly built the departmental "house," and during my eight-year tenure as Chair, I've renovated a few rooms and built an extension or two (not to mention recurrent roof repairs to try to stop the persistent flooding). I feel confident that I'm leaving the house in good shape for the next Chair and believe that, together, we have laid a solid foundation for future departmental success. Of that, I have no doubt. ♦

### Best wishes,

*Kevin A. Roth, M.D., Ph.D.*

Donald W. King, M.D. and Mary Elizabeth King, M.D. Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology  
Chair, Department of Pathology and Cell Biology  
Pathologist-in-Chief, Columbia University Irving Medical Center



(Top and Center) Kevin Roth (left), Hanina Hibshoosh (center), and Doreen Hebert (right) hard at work cleaning up the AP Lab from the winter storm flood in December 2022.

Smiles all around from the winter storm clean up crew. (From left) Alfredo Batenga, Glen Markowitz, Doreen Hebert, Joann Li, Rudi Odeh-Ramadan, and Kevin Roth

## FACULTY

## Honors and Awards

### Dr. Ottavio Arancio Awarded a Patent from US Patent and Trademark Office



On January 31, 2023, the US Patent and Trademark Office issued a patent, “MAP KINASE MODULATORS AND USES THEREOF,” under patent number 11,566,016 (IR# CU14097). [Ottavio Arancio, MD, Ph.D.](#), professor of pathology and cell biology and of medicine (in the Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer’s Disease and the Aging Brain), is one of the inventors under the patent.

The invention provides for novel MAP kinase inhibitors and compositions comprising the same. In some embodiments, the MAP kinase inhibitors are p38α MAP kinase inhibitors. The invention further provides for methods for the treatment of diseases comprising the administration of MAP kinase inhibitors or compositions comprising MAP kinase inhibitors. In some embodiments, the disease is Alzheimer’s Disease, ALS, Huntington’s Disease, or Parkinson’s Disease.

Congratulations to Dr. Arancio!

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### Dr. Jay Lefkowitz Awarded USCAP Lifetime Achievement Award



[Jay Lefkowitz, MD](#), professor emeritus of pathology and cell biology, received a “Lifetime Achievement Award” in Hepatic Pathology from the Hans Popper Hepatopathology Society on March 12, 2023, at the society’s annual reception in New Orleans at the USCAP meeting. Dr. Lefkowitz and Dr. Zachary Goodman, director of hepatic pathology consultation and research at Inova Fairfax Hospital, were honored at the Hans Popper Award Ceremony as the two annual recipients of this prestigious award. They attributed their accomplishments to productive and inspiring lifelong friendships with their pathology and hepatology colleagues, including Dr. Hans Popper, Dame Sheila Sherlock, Dr. Peter Scheuer, Dr. Kamal Ishak, Dr. Hyman Zimmerman, and countless others.

Congratulations to Dr. Lefkowitz!

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## Faculty Promotions

[Alan Detton, PhD](#), promoted to associate professor of pathology and cell biology at CUMC.

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## Welcome Our New Faculty

### Anup K. Biswas, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology (in the Institute for Cancer Genetics) at CUMC*



[Dr. Anup K. Biswas](#) received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, India. Subsequently, Dr. Biswas completed his postdoctoral training in cancer genetics at the MD Anderson Cancer Center. During this time there, he generated two unique E2F1 knock-in mouse models to study E2F1’s novel non-transcriptional function in DNA repair and tumor suppression. In 2014, Dr. Biswas joined Columbia University as an associate research scientist and investigated the molecular determinants of metastasis in lung cancer. In March 2023, Dr. Biswas joined the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology and the Institute for Cancer Genetics as an assistant professor. His laboratory is interested in understanding and targeting the mechanisms that drive brain metastasis and targeted-therapy resistance in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

## FACULTY

## Honors and Awards

## Carlos Pagan, MD, Accepted into the Virginia Apgar Academy of Educators



We are pleased to announce that Carlos Pagan, MD, assistant professor of pathology and cell biology at CUMC and residency program director, has been accepted into the Virginia Apgar Academy of Educators at the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons (VP&S). Congratulations to Dr. Pagan!

The Virginia Apgar Academy is an active community of educators at VP&S dedicated to promoting, rewarding, and supporting outstanding education for our medical students, residents, fellows, and faculty. Membership in the Academy represents not only recognition of excellence as an educator but also a commitment to contributing to the academic life of our medical community.

The following Pathology faculty members have all been accepted into the Virginia Apgar Academy:

- [Paulette Bernd, PhD](#)
- [Vivette D'Agati, MD](#)
- [Jay Lefkowitz, MD](#)
- [Ronald Liem, PhD](#)
- [Charles Marboe, MD](#)
- [Patrice Spitalnik, MD](#)
- [Anette Wu, MD, PhD](#)



[Gregory Berry, Ph.D., D\(ABMM\)](#) was elected to the national leadership of American Society of Microbiology as the representative for Clinical and Public Health Microbiology (Division C).



[Anjali Saqi, MD, MBA](#), was invited to speak at the American Society of Cytopathology Companion Meeting at the recent USCAP annual meeting in March 2023.



[Vivette D. D'Agati, MD](#) and Anjali Saqi, MD, MBA, were named Castle Connolly Top Doctors for 2023.



[Cory Abate-Shen, PhD](#) was honored at AACR 2023 with the Charlotte Friend Lectureship Award, recognizing her contributions to the field of cancer research and the advancement of women in science.



[Riccardo Dalla-Favera, MD](#), received the AACR's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Blood Cancer Research, recognizing his over 40-year career working to advance scientific understanding of lymphoma and cancer genetics.

**ANNUAL LECTURESHIP:** To recognize Dr. Marboe's long and distinguished career in the department, we have established an annual lectureship in his honor. The annual Dr. Charles Marboe Lecture will continue Dr. Marboe's history of sharing his expertise in cardiovascular pathology, cardiology, and heart transplantation. This endowed lecture will ensure quality education within the department by supporting Columbia's most important assets: its accomplished educators and faculty members who shape the future leaders in the field. The inaugural Charles Marboe Lecture will take place on May 30, 2023.

**SUPPORT EDUCATION!** To make a tax-deductible gift in Dr. Marboe's honor, please click the link [here](#).

## HONORS AND AWARDS

## Faculty in Spotlight

**Anette Wu, MD, MPH, PhD**

**Associate Professor of Medical Sciences (in Medicine) and Pathology and Cell Biology**

[Dr. Anette Wu](#), an associate professor of medical sciences (in medicine) and pathology and cell biology and a distinguished expert in the internationalization of medical education, has been making waves in her field lately with a series of notable achievements:

- She has been invited to lead and speak at a virtual webinar on April 4, 2023, at the German Center for Research and Innovation New York (DWIH New York) on “Building Bridges via Internationalization of Medical Education.” DWIH New York (<https://www.dwih-newyork.org/en/>) is known for promoting innovation and transatlantic collaboration by planning and hosting events focused on current, topical issues in science and the humanities.
- She has been selected as a guest editor for a special edition of BMC Medical Education on the “Internationalization of Medical Education” (<https://www.biomedcentral.com/collections/INME>), an honor in the field of medical education. Her expertise and effort in this area are gaining attention worldwide!
- She has also been invited to give a talk as a visiting professor at two medical schools in Taiwan, including the prestigious National Taiwan University, a leading medical school in Asia, where she will discuss the internationalization of medical education in June 2023 in Taipei.
- The ICEP faculty group, of which Dr. Wu is a member, will present four posters at the Anatomy Connected meeting of the American Association for Anatomy in Washington, DC, from March 25-27, 2023. Their topics include a global comparison of professional identity formation, global teamwork, cultural competency skills, and empathy. Dr. Wu is also a senior author for one of their talks at INTED 2023 (<https://www.clocate.com/inted-the-international-technology-education-and-development-conference/9239/>).
- Dr. Wu has been elected as the chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of the American Association for Anatomy for 2024-26, which greatly recognizes her work in promoting diversity and inclusion in medical education.
- Finally, Dr. Wu will be awarded the Columbia Alumni Medal 2023 by President Bollinger during graduation in May, which is the highest honor of the Columbia Alumni Association. This award recognizes her distinguished service in building the Columbia community, including her program and other activities.

Let’s all congratulate Dr. Wu on her remarkable accomplishments! Her hard work and dedication to the internationalization of medical education are truly inspiring. We wish her all the very best in her future endeavors.

## Useful Information

**Updating online faculty profiles** – Faculty members can update their online profiles at <http://columbiaprofiles.org/>. Regularly updating your profile is strongly encouraged. If you have any questions, please contact [pathwebmaster@lists.cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:pathwebmaster@lists.cumc.columbia.edu).

**How to update website content** – If you find any outdated, incorrect, or missing content on our department website ([www.pathology.columbia.edu](http://www.pathology.columbia.edu)), and would like to have it updated, please contact [PathWebMaster@columbia.edu](mailto:PathWebMaster@columbia.edu).

**How to post images on touchscreen directories** – Have interesting images (research, events, people, celebrations, etc.) that you wish to post on our three touch-screen directories located near the main elevators of the P&S and PH buildings, please contact [PathNews@cumc.columbia.edu](mailto:PathNews@cumc.columbia.edu).

## New Hire Shout Out

### Latasha Burl, Talent Acquisition Specialist

Latasha Burl joined the Pathology and Cell Biology human resources team as a Talent Acquisition Specialist on February 13, 2023. Latasha has 5+ years of recruitment experience. She is passionate about matching job seekers with their future managers and teams. In her role Latasha will assist in the sourcing and recruitment process and help the department build hiring pipeline programs for hard-to-fill positions.

## Honor Roll

### Staff Promotions

#### ***Hegel Gonzalez Promoted to Lead IT Support Analyst***

Congratulations to Hegel Gonzalez on his promotion to Lead IT Support Analyst. In his new role, Hegel will prioritize helpdesk tickets, assist in server administration, and assist in budgeting.

### Staff Highlights

#### ***Eric Steinhardt Accepted into CHCIO Program***

Eric Steinhardt, our Director of Pathology IT, has been accepted into the College of Healthcare Information Management Executive's (CHIME) Certified Healthcare Chief Information Officer (CHCIO) program. Congrats, Eric!

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## Employee Appreciation at CUIMC



*(From left) Courtney Sinn, Joann Li, Milan Fredricks, Latasha Burl, and Dr. Govind Bhagat representing the department well and having fun at the CUIMC Employee Appreciation Networking event on March 30, 2023*

CUIMC hosted a month of Employee Appreciation Events in March. Events included a jazz music showcase and several wellness movement activities. The month concluded with an Employee Appreciation Networking Event on March 30th to recognize and thank the staff of CUIMC. Five Pathology and Cell Biology members joined the fun, engaging activities, performances, and networking at the Columbia School of Nursing on its 7th Floor Rooftop space. Though chilly outside, the rooftop space was filled with the warmth of employees interacting with one another outside of work and immersing themselves in the CUIMC community.

## Pathology Staff Spotlight

### Nine Pathology Employees Inducted into the Columbia Twenty-Five Year Club



Congratulations to the nine Pathology and Cell Biology employees recently inducted into Columbia University's prestigious Twenty-Five Year Club – a remarkable milestone! The reception, which took place on March 6, 2023, in the Rotunda at Low Memorial Library, was the first time the event was held in person since 2019 due to capacity restrictions in the past three years. This University-wide event recognizes the remarkable commitment of Columbia faculty and staff who have served the University for over 25 years.

The nine Pathology employees, who have each made invaluable contributions to the University and the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology, are as follows:

- **Dr. Phyllis Faust**, Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC
- **Anamaria Krull**, Quality Assurance Manager
- **Chang Shu**, Laboratory Coordinator
- **Richard Strong**, Interface Analyst /Programmer
- **Dr. Matthias Szabolcs**, Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC
- **Dr. Kurenai Tanji**, Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC
- **Dr. Murty Vundavalli**, Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology at CUMC
- **Zhimin Yu**, Senior Staff Associate II
- **Geping Zhang**, Clinical Lab Technologist

*In attendance to celebrate were new and old 25-Year Club members alike. Front row, from left to right: Chang Shu, Dr. Anjali Saqi, Joann Li, Evelyn Hernandez-Rosa, Sunilda Valladares-Silva; Back row, from left to right: Zhimin Yu, Tao Su, Patricka Jeremie, Chih-Chao (Chris) Chang, Ludwika Dela Torre, and Jingzi Zhou.*

## Pathology Represents at ACHE 2023



Pathology Administrative Fellows Anna Pryamkova, Monisha Dhanasekar, and our Director of IT, Eric Steinhardt, FACHE, attended the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) 2023 Congress in Chicago. The Congress offered three days of educational and professional opportunities, all facilitated by experts in healthcare management nationwide.

*Pictured from left to right: Anna Pryamkova, Monisha Dhanasekar, and Eric Steinhardt at the ACHE 2023 Congress.*



## HONORS AND AWARDS

## Faculty in Spotlight

## Dr. Yvette Tanhehco Featured in AABB's Volunteer Spotlight



[Yvette Tanhehco, MD, Ph.D., MS](#), is an associate professor of pathology and cell biology at CUMC. She is the director of the Cellular Therapy Laboratory and assistant director of Transfusion Medicine at NewYork-Presb-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Irving Medical Center. As a member of the Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies (AABB), Dr. Tanhehco has volunteered for AABB since 2009.

In a recent interview published in the February 2023 issue of AABB News, Dr. Tanhehco talks about why she volunteers, how her volunteer work has impacted her, what she has learned from volunteering, and what her advice would be for those interested in volunteering. Below is the full text of the interview:

**How long have you been an AABB member?**

Since 2009.

**In which AABB volunteer activities are you currently active? In which have you participated?**

I am currently the chair of the Donor and Blood Component Management Subsection. I am a member of the Annual Meeting Education Committee, Cellular Therapy Standards Committee, Transfusion Medicine Section (Clinical Hemotherapy, Leadership and Administrative, Plasma Antibody Network, Therapeutic Apheresis and Transfusion Practices subsections) and Cellular Therapies section (CT Current and Emerging Topics subsection). I am also a mentor in the Professional Engagement Program (PEP) mentoring program.

**What motivates you to volunteer?**

I volunteer because I like working with other people on projects that help advance our field and shape the way we practice medicine. Being part of committees has allowed me to get to know and learn from experts in the field and share my own experiences and expertise outside of my own institution. I have developed collaborations and friendships over the years that have enhanced my professional and personal life. As a mentor in the PEP mentoring program, I have had the privilege of helping others who are new to the field improve their knowledge and careers, which has brought me a lot of joy.

**How has your volunteer work impacted your professional work?**

My volunteer work for AABB has enhanced my ability to perform my job effectively; thus, helping to advance my career. When I encounter new issues at work, I have resources and people to consult for help. The volunteers I've worked with have been truly kind and quick to offer advice or share their strategies for overcoming similar challenges. Volunteering does take a good chunk of time depending on the projects I'm working on and the frequency of the committee meetings, but I've learned to be more efficient and focus on the things that matter so that I'll have time to move committee projects forward.

**What have you learned from volunteering with AABB? And what advice would you give to someone interested in volunteering?**

I have learned that teamwork does indeed make the dream work. Great things can be achieved when you have the right team composed of knowledgeable, passionate and dedicated members who share a similar vision and goals. My advice to someone interested in volunteering is to get involved with projects that resonate with you because only then will the work be fun. Everyone has their own strengths and weaknesses, and we all bring something unique to the table regardless of our titles, so don't be intimidated or afraid to speak up. Your idea could change the entire course of a project.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

I like to train in kickboxing. It's been a great way for me to reduce stress, get in shape, increase flexibility and learn self-defense. I like the self-discipline that martial arts instills, which has benefited me tremendously, both personally and professionally. I hope to one day earn a black belt.

## OTHER GRANTS AND AWARDS (SINCE JANUARY 2023)

Compiled by Renee Peele and CUIMC Updates

PI	Sponsor	Title
Susumu Antoku, PhD	Precision Medicine Supplemental funding (Internal)	Mouse Model of PS1 Mutation Causing Dilated Cardiomyopathy
Francesca Bartolini, PhD	National Institute on Aging	Analysis of early synaptic defects in a human neuronal model of AD
Ibrahim Batal, MD	NIH National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases	Genetics and Immune Predictors for Recurrent Glomerular Diseases in the Kidney Allograft
Serge Cremers, PhD, PharmD, Milan Stojanovic, PhD, Qiao Lin, PhD	National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering	Towards rapid measurement of antibiotics in critical care setting
Vivette D. D'Agati, MD	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases	Elucidating the Molecular Mechanisms that Mediate DKD Progression in Patients living with HIV
Claudia Doege, MD	Regeneron Pharmaceuticals	Linked exome sequence variants on beta cell differentiation, proliferation, function and adaptation to hyperglycemia
Rebecca Haeusler, PhD	Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center (Internal) - 2023 Berrie Pre-translational Diabetes Research Award	The cardio-hepatic axis in heart failure and diabetes
Michael Gershon, MD, Anne Gershon, MD	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases	VZV in the enteric nervous system: pathogenesis and consequences
Minah Kim, PhD	National Cancer Institute	Angiopoietin-2/Tie2 signaling regulation of liver metastasis in pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors
Ronald Liem, PhD, Donna Farber, PhD	National Institute of General Medical Sciences	Training in Cellular, Molecular and Biomedical Studies (CMBS)
George Mentis, PhD	National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke	Cellular and neuronal circuit mechanisms involved in locomotor activity
Li Qiang, PhD	NIH National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases	Dissecting IDH-mutant dependence and intratumor heterogeneity during astrocytoma progression

## OTHER GRANTS AND AWARDS (SINCE JANUARY 2023)

Compiled by Renee Peele and CUIMC Updates

PI	Sponsor	Title
Teresa Palomero, PhD	Army Medical Research and Materiel Command	Identifying epigenetic vulnerabilities in Peripheral T-cell Lymphomas.
Alison Taylor, Ph.D.	National Institute of General Medical Sciences	Functional Understanding of Chromosome Arm Aneuploidies
Shan Zha, MD, PhD	National Cancer Institute	The role of DNA-PKcs in DNA repair, lymphocyte development, RNA metabolism and tumor suppression
Shan Zha, MD, PhD	National Cancer Institute	The non-catalytic function of PARP2 in DNA repair and cancer therapy
Lucie Zhu (GRA)	American Heart Association - Predoctoral Fellowship	N/A

## Recent Publications

- Francis D, Burguete AS, [Ghabrial AS](#). Regulation of Archease by the mTOR-vATPase axis. *Development*. 2022 Oct 1;149(19):dev200908. doi: 10.1242/dev.200908. Epub 2022 Oct 7. PMID: 36111596; PMCID: PMC9641670.
- Hudson J, Paul S, Veraksa A, [Ghabrial A](#), Harvey KF, Poon C. NDR kinase tricornered genetically interacts with Ccm3 and metabolic enzymes in *Drosophila melanogaster* tracheal development. *G3 (Bethesda)*. 2023 Mar 9;13(3):jkad013. doi: 10.1093/g3journal/jkad013. PMID: 36653023; PMCID: PMC9997570.
- [Brynn Levy](#), Linda B. Baughn, Yassmine Akkari, Scott Chartrand, Brandon LaBarge, David Claxton, P. Alan Lennon, Claudia Cujar, Ravindra Kolhe, Kate Kroeger, Beth Pitel, Nikhil Sahajpal, Malini Sathanoori, [George Vlad](#), Lijun Zhang, Min Fang, Rashmi Kanagal-Shamanna, and James R. Broach. Optical genome mapping in acute myeloid leukemia: a multicenter evaluation. *Blood Advances*, 2023 Apr 11;7(7):1297-1307. <https://doi.org/10.1182/bloodadvances.2022007583>

## PERSONALIZED GENOMIC MEDICINE

### Integration of genomics variant results with EPIC is now live

The Personalized Genomic Medicine (PGM) laboratory is pleased to announce that integration of genomics variant results with EPIC is now live. Variant data for the Columbia Targeted Myeloid and Myeloproliferative Neoplasms panels are now populating in EPIC, with other genomics test results to follow shortly. The PGM laboratory is the first across the Cornell/Columbia/NYP enterprise to provide discrete genomics data in EPIC. Structured genomics data availability in EPIC lays the framework for strengthening the institution's leadership in precision medicine and improvements in patient care, by supporting clinical and translational research, clinical trials recruitment, and clinical decision support/best practice advisories. This work was made possible by close collaboration between the PGM team (Dr. [Susan Hsiao](#), Alex Gu, and Emily Clancy), the Clinical Information Systems Laboratory IT team (Bulent Oral, Stanley Diaz, Vladimir Morales), the Che Martin of Clinical Information Systems (Genomics Integration) IT team and the Clinical IT Shared Services team – Epic (Mark Lyn, Raymond Adams, and Yuming Wang).

## RESIDENCY/FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

**Meet our new 2023 residents!****Tyler Cooke, MD**

AP/CP

Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Tyler graduated from VP&S in 2020 and worked as a consultant with the Boston Consulting Group's healthcare division. Since then, he rejoined the Columbia family, working with both Drs. Kevin Gardner and Michael Miller where he's investigated the mechanisms underlying breast cancer pathogenesis and racial disparities in breast cancer outcomes and developed digital myopathology tools.

**Helen Ellsworth, MD**

AP/NP

Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University

Before medical school, Helen worked as a Clinical Research Coordinator in the field of movement disorders, neuroanatomy, and biomedical ethics. She's also worked on studying mortality rates of COVID-19 positive patients and the co-expression of CK17 and A2ML1 in squamous cell carcinoma of the lung.

**Victoria Iannarone, MD**

AP/CP

Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University

Not only is Victoria a competitive figure skater, but under Dr. Mary Barbe's lab, Victoria also developed a protocol for the characterization of procollagen type 1 vs mature protein collagen by western blot. She also worked with Johnson & Johnson in the development of their SARS-CoV2 vaccine.

**Jordan Metz, MD, PhD**

AP/CP

Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Jordan completed his MD and PhD not too far from here where he worked in Peter Sims's lab using his biology and computational skills. His PhD thesis is titled "Systems-Level Approaches to Understanding Protein Synthesis" and included studying translation regulation of Fragile X in a mouse model and developed a high-throughput RNA-seq method for profiling translational activity.

## RESIDENCY/FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

## Meet our new 2023 residents!



### Barbara (Bobbie) Pelham-Webb, MD, PhD

CP-ONLY

Weill Cornell Medicine

Joining us from across town, Bobbie's thesis focused on maintenance of cell identity during the cell cycle. She also characterized the kinetics of transcriptional and architectural resetting globally during mitosis and mitotic exit while also identifying waves of transcriptional reactivation, and functionally validated the mitotic bookmarking role of H3K27.



### Michael Zimmerman, MD

AP/CP

Duke University School of Medicine

Michael comes to us with experience as a Senior Associate at Ernst & Young. He's also worked as a financial operations officer for a community hospital. His research experience includes Thyroid Nodular Hyperplasia in the College of American Pathologists Performance Improvement Program CME module and Seroconversion rates of CMV in CMV negative lung transplant patients and donors.



### Zhe (Jason) Zhu, M. Med

AP/NP

Zhongshan School of Medicine

Before joining us, Jason worked as a Post-doctoral fellow at Washington University in St. Louis where he researched on NF1 associated with low-grade gliomas in mouse models. He also worked at the Cleveland Clinic in projects involving ZIKA virus and its oncolytic effect on brain tumor cells.

#### Dr. Yu Sun to Receive R25 Grant in April 2023

Congratulations to **Dr. Yu Sun**, a postdoctoral residency fellow in pathology and cell biology, who has been approved to receive the R25 grant in April 2023 for her research titled: *Dissecting IDH-mutant dependence and intratumor heterogeneity during astrocytoma progression*. R25 is an NINDS Research Education Program for Residents and Fellows in Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Neuropathology.

#### Below is a brief description of Dr. Sun's research:

Diffuse gliomas are the most common malignant tumors of the central nervous system (CNS), accounting for over 70% of all brain cancers. IDH1/2 is the most frequently mutated gene in low-grade gliomas. These tumors tend to have a better

prognosis and longer overall survival compared to IDH-wildtype counterparts. But due to their diffusely infiltrative nature, these tumors are resistant to current stand-of-care therapies, tend to recur and progress to high grade. It is a long-standing question whether tumor growth and progression are dependent on IDH-mutants and whether IDH1/2 mutation should be the target of therapy. This question requires our immediate attention considering rapid development of IDH-mutant specific inhibitors for patients with IDH-mutant cancers. As proposed in the grant, I will use advanced molecular technologies, including droplet digital PCR, whole genome methylation profiling, and single-cell RNA-seq (scRNA-seq) to study the IDH-mutant dependence during astrocytoma progression and heterogeneity in response to IDH-mutant inhibitors.

## RESIDENCY/FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

**Welcome our new 2023 fellows!**

## Surgical Pathology/GI Fellowship

**Simona Pichler-Sekulic, MD****Helena Tomac Pavosevic, MD**

## Molecular Genetic Pathology Fellowship

**Chinwe Madubata, MD**  
Resident transitioning to fellowship**Hibbah Nabeel, MD**  
Transitioning from Hematopathology Fellowship

## Hematopathology Fellowship

**Amy Ku, MD, PhD**  
Resident transitioning to fellowship**Fernando Alekos Ocampo Gonzalez, MD**

## Surgical Pathology Fellowship

**John Colavito, MD**

## Neuropathology Fellowship

**Laura Angelica Gomez, MD**

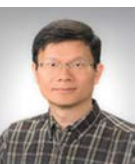
## Cytotopathology Fellowship

**Natasha Singh, MD**

## Transfusion Medicine Fellowship

**Tobias Cohen, MD, PhD**

## Laboratory Genetics and Genomics Fellowship

**Xinming Zhug, PhD**

## Medical Microbiology Fellowship

**Abdullah Kilic, MD**

## Medical Dental Fellowship

**Courtney Soto, DDS**

## RESIDENCY/FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

## Pathology Resident and Fellow Win USCAP Awards



**Lanny DiFranza, MD** a renal pathology fellow, received the Stowell-Orbison Award for his abstract poster presentation titled: “The Significance of Receiving a Kidney from a Black Donor; Looking Below the Tip of the Iceberg” (Authors: Lanny DiFranza, Emily Daniel, Dominick Santoriello, Ali Syed Husain, Ibrahim Batal). Dr. DiFranza completed his residency training in Anatomic & Clinical Pathology at New York Presbyterian-Columbia University Irving Medical Center in 2022, and is the renal pathology fellow in the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology for the current academic year ending in June 2023.

*Lanny DiFranza, a renal pathology fellow (and former resident) received the Stowell-Orbison at the 2023 USCAP Annual Meeting, which was held in New Orleans, LA, in March 2023.*

**Maelle Saliba, MD**, a PGY2 resident, received the Association of Directors of Anatomic and Surgical Pathology Award for her abstract titled: “Delineating Invasive Mucinous Adenocarcinomas (IMA) Within the Spectrum of Pulmonary Adenocarcinomas with Mucinous Features (PAM): Refinement of Cytomorphologic Features and Correlation with Genomic Profiles” (Authors: Maelle Saliba, Michelle Garlin Politis, Mahesh Mansukhani, Helen Fernandes, Anjali Saqi)

**Niyati Desai, MD** and **Michelle Garlin Politis, MD**, both PGY2 residents, were nominated for the Stowell-Orbison Award for their abstract titled “Spread Through Air Spaces (STAS): Inter-responder Agreement and Comparison between Academic and Non-Academic Settings.”

The Stowell-Orbison Awards are presented by the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP) and are awarded to trainees who are currently residents or fellows in pathology. This award recognizes the pathologists-in-training who present the best research work through a poster presentation at the USCAP Annual Meeting. The decision is made by USCAP Stowell-Orbison Awards Committee members, and is based on the complexity of the work, the amount of time dedicated to the project, the novelty of the findings, and the suspected impact of these findings for improving patient care and medical knowledge.

The Association of Directors of Anatomic and Surgical Pathology (ADASP) and the USCAP co-sponsor two additional awards, the Surgical and Autopsy Pathology Awards, to pathologists-in-training for the best posters on a morphology-based surgical pathology study and on autopsy material respectively, presented as part of the Stowell-Orbison competition. Applicants may win one of these awards alone, or they may win them in addition to a Stowell-Orbison Award. Eligibility is the same as for the Stowell-Orbison abstracts.

## Useful Information

There are many tax advantages to giving appreciated stock to the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology. In donating appreciated securities, you avoid capital gains tax and qualify for a charitable income tax deduction for the full value of the securities.

Please visit [www.giving.cuimc.columbia.edu/ways-give/gifts-securities](http://www.giving.cuimc.columbia.edu/ways-give/gifts-securities) for more information.

## Medical Education

### ICEP Students Meet in Paris By [Anette Wu, MD, MPH, PhD](#)



100 students from 15 of the partner schools of the [International Collaboration and Exchange Program \(ICEP\)](#) gathered in Paris for their first academic immersion travel. The event was organized by ICEP and hosted by the Columbia Global Center Paris and the University of Paris Cite and INEM (Institut Necker Enfants Malades). The students were from various health profession backgrounds. They attended a seminar at the Columbia Global Center Paris with Professor Walter Willett from Harvard, were greeted by the Deans of International Affairs and the International Offices at the University of Paris and visited the Museum of History of Medicine in Paris. In addition to academic activities, the students toured the INEM laboratories, where the principal investigators shared their research with them. Their peers organized social activities for cultural exposure, which included visits to famous landmarks and experiencing the local cuisine.

Ten students from Columbia participated in the event and enjoyed the experience very much.

The event was a great success, as it provided the students with the opportunity to learn from leading researchers in their field, as well as to network and form relationships with peers from around the world. The students connected immediately, and their chemistry was palpable. To them, this was a rewarding and enriching experience. As one of the students wrote later:

"I never felt I could be myself so deeply and be received with so sincere smiles. I never thought I would have such a deep connection with people that I have met and stayed together for only 4 days. With people from France, Germany, England, Spain, Finland, Austria, Brazil, United States, Australia, Singapore, [and] Japan, who would've thought that such different cultures and backgrounds would have so much in common? However, on this trip, I realized that our commonalities are stronger than our differences, and no border is bigger than that.

My hopes are that we stay connected like this throughout our entire journey as professionals in the healthcare field. You will all become amazing doctors, dentists, and biomedical professionals, and I'll be here to applaud your success. I am waking up from this dream only now, but the memories will always stay with me. If I could only describe what I felt this past week... it would have not been so magical. I lived with true happiness this week. I laughed, I danced, I hugged, and I shared delicious meals. I loved, and I was loved. Thank you for having given me these moments. I will never forget them, and I look forward to having you all in New York and in Brazil."

*The photo, taken at the University Paris Cite (formerly University of Paris Descartes), shows Dr. Anette Wu, director of ICEP and associate professor of medical science in (Medicine) and pathology and cell biology, with the participating students and faculty.*

## Former Graduate Student Shoshana Shendelman Joins Columbia's Board of Trustees



Dr. Shendelman is the Founder, Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Board of Directors at Applied Therapeutics, a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company located in New York City. Prior to founding Applied Therapeutics, Dr. Shendelman founded Clearpoint Strategy Group LLC, a boutique life sciences consulting firm, where she served as the Managing Director from July 2012 to December 2016 and served as a Senior Advisor from January 2017 to December 2018. Dr. Shendelman is Vice Chair of the Clinical Advisory Board of Columbia University Medical Center and Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons, where she serves on the Nominations Committee and the Committee on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. She received her Ph.D. in Cellular, Molecular and Biophysical Studies (CMBS) from Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons and did her thesis work in the laboratory of Dr. Asa Abeliovich in the Department of Pathology and Cell Biology.

*Photo: Dr. Shoshana Shendelman*



## WE'RE HIRING!

Refer your network.

### Pathology and Cell Biology is hiring!

**Grants Manager -- Pathologists' Assistant -- Technician A -- Technician B--  
Clinical Laboratory Technologist -- H.R. Generalist -- Cytogenetic/FISH Technologist**

The department of Pathology and Cell Biology is looking for passionate, qualified, high-performing candidates to join us in our mission of providing global leadership in scientific research, patient care, and health and medical education. The Employee Referral Program Pilot is intended to increase recruitment success by widening applicant pools beyond current search measures (Indeed posting, Zip Recruiter, LinkedIn, and University Applicant Tracking System applications), engaging current employees in the recruitment process, and providing a reward structure for employees who refer candidates into the pool who can be converted into successful new hires.

[See All Non-Academic Job Opportunities at Pathology](#)

Submit a Referral



### LGBTQ+ ERG celebrated Pride Night at the Nets



*Photo: In attendance to celebrate Pride night at the Nets. From left to right: Tonya Richards, Daniel Dobrin, Angelic Pla, Cynthia Rubiera, Dina Pruitt, Keyuana Ramos, Sara Sternglass, Ashley Boyce, and an unidentified individual.*

The LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group (ERG) celebrated pride night at Barclays Center with the Brooklyn Nets. The Brooklyn Nets Pride Night United Game is an annual event celebrating and spotlighting the LGBTQ+ community. For more information on getting involved with one of CUIMC's many ERGs, visit <https://www.cuimc.columbia.edu/about-us/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-cuimc>.

