



Department of Pathology & Immunology Awards Ceremony

**Thursday, October 20, 2022
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Moore Auditorium**

 **Washington**
University in St. Louis
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Pathology & Immunology

The Department of Pathology & Immunology has a long and rich history of excellence in research, teaching, and clinical service. Achieving departmental excellence is not a solitary act, it involves the efforts of many, many dedicated individuals. This year, we are especially grateful to come together in person to celebrate the achievements of faculty and staff who have made outstanding contributions to our department.



The Office of Faculty Development is appreciative of the many individuals who submitted high-quality nominations and to the Awards Committee who had the very difficult job of selecting the award winners.

Please join us in congratulating the 2022 awardees for their dedication and commitment to excellence.

Mark Watson, MD, PhD
Vice-Chair of Faculty Development

Awards Committee

Rebecca Chernock

Joseph Corbo

Jo Anne Humphries, Co-Chair

Cheryl Lichti

Lauri Thienes

Mark Watson

Melanie Yarbrough, Co-Chair

Awards Ceremony Program

Welcome

Staff Shining Star Awards

Outstanding Contributions to Education Award

Outstanding Achievements in Leadership and Professionalism Award

Excellence in Faculty Mentoring Award

Outstanding Paper of the Year Award

Outstanding Achievements in Quality Improvement Award

Department Head's Special Recognition Awards

Promotions

Milestone Years of Service

Patsy Alldredge, MS, BS, BSHIM, CHFM

Shining Star Award



Patsy Alldredge, MS, BS, BSHIM, CHFM, Clinical Research Specialist, is honored as a Shining Star of Pathology and Immunology.

Patsy has been a tremendous asset and plays a critical role in the correlative science bio-banking protocol development for Alliance and Alliance Foundation Trials supported by the Tissue Procurement Core (TPC). In this role she participates on conference calls between program teams and central cooperative groups, leads efforts to develop budgets and new services (as needed) and ultimately distills this information into simplified collection schedules needed to support the biospecimen processing activities carried out at the TPC.

Patsy's unique ability to manage processes, develop and manage project timelines, integrate activities across multiple groups on and off our campus and understand the unique logistical challenges associated with human studies research across multiple institutions, make her uniquely suited and exceptionally qualified for this role. In addition to the upfront protocol development work, Patsy is also responsible for coordinating downstream specimen processing activities on stored biospecimens associated with the Alliance and Alliance Foundation Trials programs. Given the scale of these projects, exceptional planning and coordination with internal and external groups outside the university who will assist with specimen analyses is critical. Patsy is able to navigate this with ease and makes these large projects far easier than most.

Coworkers are constantly inspired by her knowledge and leadership. Patsy leads by example by improving her knowledge base by taking courses to keep her current with the latest certifications that enhances her job performance. She has the respect of not only her contemporaries but also investigators from all over the world.

Patsy is one of the sweetest and most patient people. She listens and offers her comfort and help whoever and whenever someone is in distress or just in need of a listening ear. Her ability to understand different situations and her comforting words always help me go through difficult times at work.

Corazon Dungo-Arthur

Shining Star Award



Corazon D. Arthur, Research Laboratory Manager, in the Division of Immunobiology is honored as a Shining Star of Pathology and Immunology.

Cora came to the Department in the late 1980's as a Research Technician working with Drs. Tom and Vivian Braciale and transferred to the Schreiber laboratory in 1991, advancing to Research Laboratory Manager. In this role, Cora not only oversees daily lab operations, equipment maintenance, ordering, budgeting and compliance, but also performs complex experiments with meticulous care.

Cora's work ethic is unmatched! She is always willing to lend a hand for a big experiment, search for missing reagents or clean out the lunch refrigerator. Her compulsive record keeping (including lot #s and ship dates) and protocol notes allow the lab to function smoothly. Simply, Cora gets things done, and has a network for everything.

Cheerfully, she guides all of us to be more careful, respectful and kind to each other, challenging us all to be better team members. Too many trainees to count have learned their basic cell culture techniques from Cora, principles that will serve them well their entire scientific career.

Cora also interacts seamlessly with Departmental administration, facilities staff, vendors and our collaborators to efficiently and effectively move our work forward. She is the "go-to" person for reagents, information and the best fried rice around. She has a delightful sense of humor, and love of good jokes.

Vicky Fuehne

Shining Star Award



Vicky Fuehne, Senior Research Administrator for Research Business Operations, is honored as a Shining Star of Pathology and Immunology.

Vicky is very supportive of her team. She is highly responsive, prioritizes assisting her staff with questions and provides new staff with needed training. She is always available for questions and very patient with the abundance of them she fields!

Her depth of knowledge is invaluable in finding solutions to problems keeping operations running smoothly. With the implementation of Workday, she was the go to person for help.

Vicky is a mentor. She leads by example, values and accepts all her team members, and provides guidance for improvement. It is great to work with a supervisor who is so appreciative of her team!

Melvin Stewart

Shining Star Award



Melvin Stewart, Clinical Lab Technologist is honored as a Shining Star of Pathology and Immunology.

Melvin began performing frozen sections in the Barnes South frozen room only a few years ago but already has revolutionized the process. Not only is he highly skilled and efficient at cutting frozen sections, he is also energetic, reliable and dedicated to his job.

The frozen section process is stressful for residents, fellows and attendings, especially with a turnaround time hanging over one's head. Multiple frozens may accompany a single case, often ongoing simultaneously on with other cases and are absolutely critical for success of a procedure and patient care. Melvin is simply unflappable. He is never terse, angry or flustered – no matter how difficult the situation becomes, often managing multiple frozens at one time.

He works hard on maintaining a smooth running machine, even with new residents. He teaches and performs, all the while, at the top of his game. He also goes above and beyond what is expected even fulfilling duties outside of his responsibility.

The quality of his frozens are exceptional, even with the minute watery samples of low grade neuro biopsies in particular.

The important role that Melvin plays in frozen section is not only noticed by those who work with him in the Pathology Department but also by the surgeons who will send frozen when they know he is available. He is truly an irreplaceable employee in the Pathology Department!

Erika Crouch, MD, PhD

Outstanding Contributions to Education



Erika Crouch, MD, PhD, Professor of Pathology & Immunology in the Division of Anatomic and Molecular Pathology is honored for her outstanding contributions to Education.

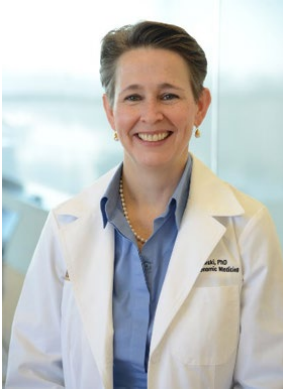
Dr. Crouch is the Vice Chair of the Office of Education for Pathology & Immunology. Within the pathology department, she has actively mentored several junior faculty into education-focused careers. Outside the sphere of pathology, she has had a transformative effect on the WUSM curriculum. For these efforts, Dr. Crouch has been recognized as an esteemed medical educator, as attested by numerous student-voted teaching awards. Students recognize her consistent approach to visual aids, her emphasis on key concepts and mechanisms, and her drive to downplay details not necessary at the medical student level. Her educational efforts have also been recognized by peers. She was one of the first recipients of the Goldstein Leadership Award in Medical Student Education, was elected as an inaugural member of the WU Academy of Educators, and a recipient of a WUSM Second Century Award.

The retirement of the legacy curriculum is a wonderful time to reflect on the factors that made Dr. Crouch such a leader in education. She has been integrally involved in the development and implementation of the Gateway Curriculum for medical student education. She has worked tirelessly to ensure representation of Pathology and Lab Medicine as formal threads in the curriculum and has taken ownership of the histology component at a time of great need. Not content to simply recruit drop-in lecturers for each topic, she mentors speakers and ensures that their lectures align with the course philosophy.

The Gateway Curriculum reflects her emphasis on concepts and applications, and incorporates a signature pedagogy, “Learn-Apply-Consolidate-Expand” (LACE), which she singlehandedly developed. Dr. Crouch’s vision that WUSM should be a school where pathology is the cornerstone of medical basic sciences has greatly influenced our school and is a credit to our department.

Ann M. Gronowski, PhD

Outstanding Achievements in Leadership and Professionalism



Ann Gronowski, PhD, Professor of Pathology & Immunology in the Division of Laboratory and Genomic Medicine is honored for her outstanding achievements in leadership and professionalism. Dr. Gronowski serves as Interim Division Co-Chief of LGM, Medical Director of Barnes-Jewish Hospital Core Laboratory Services and Medical Director of Serology/Immunology.

Dr. Gronowski has served tirelessly in many leadership roles in our department, in addition to her roles as an outstanding clinician, laboratory medical director, and educator.

As a vice chair in our department, she played a major role in the formation of the Office of Faculty Development and exhibited her passion and ability to lay a strong foundation to ensure all faculty excel in their career. Now as a division chief, she devotes time and effort to each individual member of her division. She listens first and foremost and offers advice guided by wisdom and experience to ensure a faculty member's career path matches their passion.

Dr. Gronowski's skills in strategic planning have been very effective in moving the division forward in a short amount of time. She has a vision and puts her words into action. We are fortunate to have Dr. Gronowski as a leader in our department. She is a tireless and dedicated advocate and truly embodies the qualities of an exceptional leader.

Carey-Ann D. Burnham, PhD

Excellence in Faculty Mentoring



Carey-Ann Burnham, PhD, Professor of Pathology & Immunology in the Division of Laboratory and Genomic Medicine is honored for her excellence in faculty mentoring.

Dr. Burnham is a consummate mentor. She ‘meets you where you are’ in your career and challenges you to move forward. She has a limitless capacity to mentor faculty in all walks of medicine and at all stages of their career.

She listens and provides constructive feedback. Sharing her stories and similar experiences helps her to connect with mentees. She is empathetic to the challenges faced by junior faculty and a strong advocate that their needs be met.

Dr. Burnham not only exemplifies the qualities of a great mentor but champions effective mentoring for others. As a result of her efforts, the junior faculty mentoring program was instituted during her time as Vice Chair of Faculty Mentoring & Advancement in Pathology and Immunology.

Although Dr. Burnham is no longer full-time faculty at WUSM, her impact still resonates throughout the department and she has continued her mentoring role with many faculty. It is this dedication that has earned her this award!

Christopher W. Farnsworth, PhD

Outstanding Paper of the Year



Christopher W. Farnsworth, PhD, Associate Professor of Pathology & Immunology in the Division of Laboratory and Genomic Medicine is honored for his outstanding paper of the year: *Serial Cardiac Biomarkers for Risk Stratification of Patients with Covid-19*.

The cardiovascular manifestations induced by SARS-CoV-2 have generated considerable concern and patients with underlying cardiac disease have been shown to have poorer outcomes. However, knowledge of reliable markers for the early detection of myocardial damage and mortality risk assessment were lacking.

This study assessed the utility of five different cardiac biomarkers for prognosticating patients with COVID-19. Using 4,282 specimens from 358 patients with PCR confirmed infection, it was found that serial measurement of troponin and galectin 3 aide in prognosis and risk triaging of patients presenting with COVID-19.

Tawiah K, Jackson L, Omosule C, Ballman C, Shahideh B, Scott MG, Murtagh G, Farnsworth CW. Serial cardiac biomarkers for risk stratification of patients with COVID-19. *Clin Biochem*. 2022 Jun 9;107:24–32. doi: 10.1016/j.clinbiochem.2022.06.002.

Eynav Klechevsky, PhD

Outstanding Paper of the Year



Eynav Klechevsky, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pathology & Immunology in the Division of Immunobiology is honored for her outstanding paper of the year: *STAT3 Gain-of-Function Mutations Underlie Deficiency in Human Nonclassical CD16⁺ Monocytes and CD141⁺ Dendritic Cells*.

The study highlights STAT3 as an important development and differentiation regulator of nonclassical CD16⁺ monocytes and a subset of myeloid dendritic cells (the cDC1s) in humans. The study identified a novel disorder of dendritic cells and monocytes and highlighted STAT3 activation as a checkpoint event in the transitioning of classical CD14⁺ monocytes into nonclassical monocytes (CD16⁺ monocytes), as well as in the specification of precursors into a subset of myeloid DCs (cDC1 and monocyte-derived DCs).

The aberrant DC and monocyte differentiation not only increases our understanding of the development of these lineages in human, but also further explains some of the patient pathological phenotypes, which present with multiorgan autoimmunity, lymphoproliferation, and recurrent infections.

This study is particularly relevant in patients with COVID-19, in which STAT3-activating pathways are profoundly induced, potentially impacting DC and monocyte development and ultimately, antiviral responses.

Korenfeld D*, Roussak K*, Dinkel S, Vogel TP, Pollack H, Levy J, Leiding JW, Milner J, Cooper M, Klechevsky E. STAT3 Gain-of-Function Mutations Underlie Deficiency in Human Nonclassical CD16⁺ Monocytes and CD141⁺ Dendritic Cells. *J Immunol*. 2021 Nov 15;207(10):2423-2432. doi: 10.4049/jimmunol.2000841.

*These authors contributed equally

The Revenue Cycle Team

Outstanding Achievement in Quality Improvement

Team Members:

Vanessa Dale Alexander
Kristina Bain
Kierra Becton
Hannah Heitzman
Barbara Fowler
Tracey Hammontree
Janis Lynn Hardin
June Huang
Ciera Jones
McKinley Kemp
Yiyi Kong
Debra McGee

Rosa Montileone
Kelly Morgan
Sherrie Morrow
Mary O'Dell
Ibukunoluwa Ojewola
Sheila Rozmirsky
Kylee Sabo
Susan Jane Sample
Paula Sydow
Carrie Wellman
Samantha White

The Department's Revenue Cycle Team is honored for their outstanding achievement in quality improvement.

The Revenue Cycle Team are the people that perform all processes related to coding, compliance, billing, and collections to ensure the Department receives payment for services rendered. They work 'behind the scenes' to support the clinical side of our department, however, their job is an integral part of the department's success.

Over the last 2.5 years, the Revenue Cycle team has undergone many changes in leadership, staff and location of work. Despite adversity, the whole team has been able to improve upon processes and consistently exceed goals. Our Department is very fortunate to have exceptional coders & collectors who have worked tirelessly over several years to improve processes, increase efficiency, and **CRUSH** goals. All in all, their efforts have significantly improved billing and collection workflows resulting in a reduction in aging accounts receivable while increasing net collectibles. A few key performance indicators to call out:

Reduction in Accounts Receivable > 90 Days | *FY20 AVG: 29%* | *FY21 AVG: 23 %* | *FY22 AVG: 20%*

Reduction in Days Receivable Outstanding | *FY20 AVG: 54* | *FY21 AVG: 42* | *FY22 AVG: 39*

The team's extreme flexibility, tenacity, trust in leadership, exemplary teamwork, and dedication to improving processes has led to the Department's overall success.

Celebrating Milestone Years of Service in Pathology & Immunology in FY2022

Forty-Five Years

Robert E. Schmidt, M.D., Ph.D.

Thirty Years

Theresa L. Murphy, Ph.D.
Christopher A. Nelson, Ph.D.

Twenty-Five Years

Stephen C. Horvath

Twenty Years

Marco Colonna, M.D.
Susan Gilfillan, Ph.D.
Jordana Stewart

Fifteen Years

John L. Frater, M.D.
Vicky Fuehne
Jacqueline E. Payton, M.D., Ph.D.

Ten Years

Patricia Alldredge
Gaya K. Amarasinghe, Ph.D.
Maksym Artyomov, Ph.D.
Cory T. Bernadt, M.D., Ph.D.
Dorjan Brinja
Sonika M. Dahiya, M.D.
Erika Fuess
Jennifer M. Greenbaum-DiRuscio
Erica M. Lantelme
Nima Mosammaparast, M.D., Ph.D.
Anne Paredes
Gwendalyn J. Randolph, Ph.D.
Kate Stehl
Anthony N. Vomund

Promotions

July 1, 2021 through July 1, 2022

Promotions to Professor

Maxim N. Artyomov, PhD

Scott A. Handley, PhD

Mai He, MD, PhD

John L. Frater, MD

Nima Mosammaparast, MD, PhD

Mark A. Watson, MD, PhD

Promotions to Associate Professor

John S.A. Chrisinger, MD

Christopher W. Farnsworth, PhD

Chieh-Yu Lin, MD, PhD

Stephen Roper, PhD

Igor Smirnov, DVM

Suzanne R. Thibodeaux, MD, PhD

Jacqueline E. Payton, MD, PhD with Tenure

Melanie L. Yarbrough, PhD

Wei Zou, MD, PhD

Promotions to Assistant Professor

Matthew C. Hibberd, PhD

Xiaoxiao Wan, PhD