

Christopher W. Farnsworth, PhD

Outstanding Achievements in Leadership and Professionalism

Christopher W. Farnsworth, Instructor in Pathology & Immunology in the Division of Laboratory and Genomic Medicine, is honored for his outstanding achievements in leadership and professionalism. Dr. Farnsworth serves as Co-medical Director, Clinical Chemistry, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, and Medical Director, Point of Care testing, Barnes-Jewish Hospital.



When COVID-19 emerged in March 2020, life changed for everyone. For Dr. Farnsworth, the pandemic uncovered a natural leader and role model. The LGM division was asked to establish a biospecimen repository of remnant samples from patients with COVID-19. Dr. Farnsworth immediately seized the opportunity and developed a mechanism to identify, collect, and aliquot specimens. Dr. Farnsworth created a collaborative bank with approximately 2000 serially collected specimens from 350 COVID-19-positive, hospitalized patients and gathered well-annotated histories. Faculty within and outside P&I have collaboratively accessed this valuable resource for COVID-19 research.

At the same time, Dr. Farnsworth volunteered to evaluate three SARS-CoV-2 serological assays that received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA. Dr. Farnsworth volunteered to coordinate the assay evaluation, using samples from the biobank he created, and ultimately validated the Abbott assay which is now being used by BJH Core Laboratory. Finally, Dr. Farnsworth invited a trainee, Dr. Mei-San Tang, to be involved in the validations and through his leadership, they very rapidly published the validation studies in a high-profile journal with Dr. Tang as lead author. This paper was picked up by 18 news outlets and has already been cited 68 times.

Dr. Farnsworth has established himself as a strong leader with a positive attitude who is not afraid to assume responsibility of complex initiatives. He does so in a collaborative way so that many people in our department can benefit. He is an important role model for our faculty and trainees.