



*Department of
Pathology & Immunology*

*Awards Ceremony
October 21, 2020*

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, in the face of the hardships that COVID-19 has brought, it is especially satisfying to celebrate some of the faculty and staff who have made outstanding contributions to our department.



The Office of Faculty Development is grateful to 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 2020 inaugural awardees for their dedication and commitment to excellence.

Ann M. Gronowski, PhD
Vice-Chair of Faculty Affairs and Development

Carey-Ann D. Burnham, PhD
Vice-Chair of Faculty Mentoring and Advancement

Awards Committee

Paul Allen, PhD
Carey-Ann Burnham, PhD
Rebecca Chernock, MD
Joseph Corbo, MD, PhD
Ann Gronowski, PhD
Jo Anne Humphries
Kathleen Sheehan, PhD
Melanie Yarbrough, PhD

Awards Ceremony Program

Welcome

Staff Shining Star Awards

Outstanding Achievements in Leadership and Professionalism Award

Outstanding Paper of the Year Award

Excellence in Faculty Mentoring Award

Outstanding Achievements in Quality Improvement Award

Outstanding Contributions to Education Award

Department Head's Special Recognition Awards

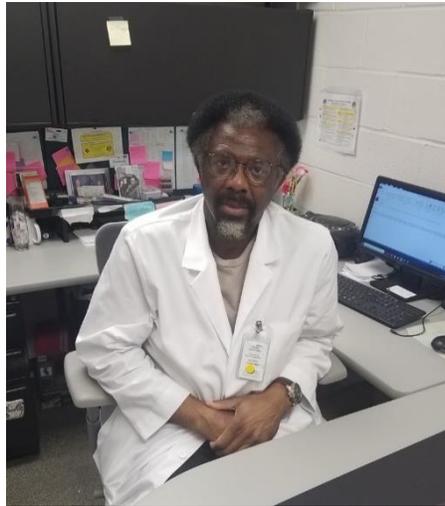
Promotions

Milestone Years of Service

Jessie Hardges

Staff Shining Star

Jessie Hardges, Autopsy Supervisor, is honored with the staff shining star award.



Jessie began as an autopsy assistant during the summer when he was in high school in the early 1970s. After college graduation in 1978, he returned as a full-time autopsy technician, remaining here since and serving as supervisor for the last 30 years. Over the course of 5 decades, Jessie has taught several hundred pathology trainees the basics of autopsy techniques. He patiently answers their most basic or complex questions. His knowledge of human anatomy and skills for difficult dissections, complicated by existing pathology, has been passed on to young pathologists who never forget his guiding hand. Trainees are not the only beneficiaries of his knowledge, as attending pathologists also continue to seek out his expertise.

He has an unofficial role as a counselor, for all who have personal issues or just need a friend. His constant attention to detail ensures that the autopsy suite maintains a safe and professional environment. Behind the scenes, he takes care of all issues for permits, interacting with funeral homes and with families, in a gentle, compassionate, and humane manner. He facilitates the acquisition of tissue samples during autopsy for research. He oversees the use of autopsy specimens for resident and medical school education, and for community outreach, including demonstrating harmful effects of smoking on the lungs. His professionalism and dedication to the autopsy service are the attributes which define Mr. Hardges.

Becky Speidel

Staff Shining Star

Becky Speidel, Grant Specialist II, is honored with the staff shining star award. Becky joined WUSM in October of 2011 and has been with Pathology & Immunology for the past four years.

The Department of Pathology and Immunology at Washington University was ranked 3rd in the nation among pathology departments in 2017 in terms of total NIH grant funding. Becky is credited with contributing to the funding success of the department. She is extremely knowledgeable when discussing Washington University and grant policy interpretations.



Co-workers describe her as “whip-smart, meticulous, punctual, and unfailingly helpful”. She jumps in to help co-workers with grant submissions to meet last minute deadlines.

She can master the necessary skills for any challenge presented to her. She is a tremendous resource to both newcomers and senior faculty. Her past IT experience is extremely appreciated when problems arise.

Becky is an outstanding grant administrator and truly a shining star of our department.

Meghan A. Wallace

Staff Shining Star

Meghan A. Wallace, senior clinical laboratory technologist, is honored with the staff shining star award.

Simply put, Meghan is exceptional. Meghan has been a Technologist in the Burnham Laboratory for more than 8 years. During that time, she has participated in the



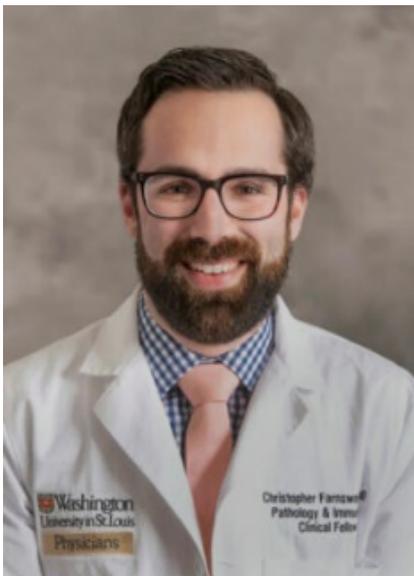
training and research projects of nine clinical microbiology fellows, as well as countless laboratory medicine residents, graduate students, and infectious diseases fellows. Meghan has contributed to more than 20 clinical trials that have contributed to the FDA clearance of laboratory tests or devices. As an example of Meghan's productivity and impact, she contributed as a co-author on 48 peer-reviewed publications and has a Scopus *h* index of 13. If that was not enough, when the COVID pandemic brought new challenges, Meghan was able to quickly transition from her typical work, focused on bacteriology and antimicrobial resistance, to contributing to the effort to validate and implement clinical testing for SARS-CoV-2. Meghan participated in sample preparation and testing for

validation studies, in addition to working in the BJH clinical laboratory performing testing for COVID. Meghan's work is so accurate, and she is so detail oriented, that at times her team says in jest that her data look "too good to be true". In addition to her excellent quality of work and work ethic, Meghan always has a positive attitude and meets every challenge (and every new lab member she has to train) with a smile. Meghan keeps the Burnham laboratory running.

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.

Ali Ellebedy, PhD

Outstanding Paper of the Year Award (Junior Faculty)

Ali Ellebedy, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pathology & Immunology in the Division of Immunobiology is honored for his outstanding paper of the year: *A Potently Neutralizing Antibody Protects Mice against SARS-CoV-2 Infection (The Journal of Immunology, 2020, 205: 915–922)*.



Dr. Ellebedy quickly focused efforts early in the pandemic to make antibodies that could be used to neutralize SARS-CoV-2. He cloned antibodies from patients and immunized mice and, in mice, identified a very potent neutralizing antibody. This antibody has already been fully humanized and being prepared for use as a therapeutic. Other leaders in the field, like Florian Krammer (at Mount Sinai), tested this antibody against many others and found it to be a top reagent and one of the most, if not the most, potent neutralizing antibody available. The paper describing this work has been already been cited 13 times and viewed more than 5,000 times (as of October 1, 2020), with 145 Tweets about the article.

Rebecca Chernock, MD

Excellence in Faculty Mentoring

Rebecca Chernock, MD, Associate Professor of Pathology & Immunology in the Division of Anatomic and Molecular Pathology and of Otolaryngology is honored for her excellence in faculty mentoring. She serves as Director of the Selective (Head & Neck) Pathology Fellowship.

Dr. Chernock is a dedicated mentor to junior faculty, residents, and fellows. She has given exceptional advice regarding how to be productive with formulating research ideas and advancing those ideas to publications, as well as advising on clinical cases and academic goals. She actively promotes faculty members for research and teaching committee opportunities. Dr. Chernock serves as an invaluable committee member on numerous junior faculty member's mentorship committees, which is not surprising as her leadership is sought after by many members of the department. She is continuously available to provide advice and guidance.



Overall, Dr. Chernock's excellence in clinical service, academic achievements, and contributions to mentoring junior faculty are essential for the continued success of the Pathology & Immunology Department at Washington University.

Neil W. Anderson, MD Bijal A. Parikh, MD, PhD COVID-19 Testing Team

Outstanding Achievements in Quality Improvement

Neil W. Anderson, MD, Assistant Professor of Pathology & Immunology and Bijal A. Parikh, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Pathology & Immunology, both in the Division of Laboratory and Genomic Medicine, and their COVID-19 Testing Team, are honored for their outstanding achievements in quality improvement.



Working as a team, Drs. Anderson and Parikh developed SARS-CoV-2 molecular testing at BJH hospital. This herculean task was done with lightning speed and allowed health professionals in our community to detect infected patients, rapidly quarantine them to prevent further spread of the virus and consider patients for available therapeutic options.



Prior to the first case of COVID-19 being diagnosed in Missouri, the Molecular Infectious Disease laboratory (MID) started the task of developing the capacity to perform >1000 SARS-CoV-2 tests per day! Drs. Anderson and Parikh's team worked non-stop and within two weeks of the FDA allowing laboratories to develop molecular assays for this virus, the team submitted their request for emergency use authorization (EUA) and began testing. Within one week, the MID laboratory was able to perform ~200 tests/day and continued to increase by ~200/day each week. By April 30th, the lab reached the milestone of being able to perform ~1000 tests/day. Early on, the team anticipated supply chain shortages and began comparing the interchangeability of instrumentation to allow for duplication in a common workflow. They developed processes that would allow the BJH laboratory to remain functional even when faced with changes in testing capacity and reagents. As of September 20, 2020, >120,000 SARS-CoV-2 PCR test have been performed at BJH laboratories!

The St. Louis metropolitan area owes a debt of gratitude to this team for developing high volume, reliable COVID-19 testing. It is clear they demonstrate the leadership and innovation that this award is meant to celebrate.

Robert E. Schmidt, MD, PhD

Outstanding Contributions to Education

Robert E. Schmidt, MD, PhD, Professor of Pathology & Immunology in the Division of Neuropathology is honored for his outstanding contributions to education. Dr. Schmidt serves as Division Chief of Neuropathology, Medical Director of the Electron Microscopy Facility and Director of Neuropathology Fellowship.



During his 40 plus years in neuropathology, his dedication to teaching and mentoring the younger generation of (Neuro) pathologists has been unwavering. He has trained close to 40 Neuropathologists during his career at Washington University, and many are now leaders in the field. But more importantly, the relationships he shares with them is incredible. During national/international meetings, his former trainees and colleagues often gather informally to celebrate the fond memories and the impact his teachings have left on them.

His contributions to education do not end with Washington University or Neuropathology, but are reflected more broadly across multiple specialties and trainees outside of Washington University through his AFIP/Inova lectures, multiple book chapters, his peripheral nerve pathology textbook, and digital electron microscopy material that have enriched the renowned Washington University neuromuscular disease center website. These resources benefit many people around the world.

In addition, he has created a catalog of gross and histologic images of rarer entities, collected by him through more than 40 years in the specialty. He never misses the opportunity to share this resource to make a teaching point, draw attention to nuances, or help infer visual comparisons. He is truly an expert in the field who has influenced and enriched many lives by sharing his experience, wit, and patience.

Promotions
January 2019 to Present

Anatomic and Molecular Pathology

Ian S. Hagemann, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Pathology and Immunology, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology on the Clinician Track

Friederike H. Kreisel, MD

Professor of Pathology and Immunology on the Clinician Track

Marianna B. Ruzinova, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Pathology and Immunology on the Clinician Track

Cody H. Weimholt, DO

Assistant Professor of Pathology and Immunology on the Clinician Track

Laboratory and Genomic Medicine

Brian T. Edelson, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Pathology and Immunology on the Investigator Track with Tenure

Bijal Parikh MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Pathology and Immunology on the Clinician Track

Immunobiology

Christopher A. Nelson, PhD

Associate Professor of Pathology and Immunology on the Research Track

Kathleen C. F. Sheehan, PhD

Professor of Pathology and Immunology on the Research Track

Xiaoxiao Wan, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Pathology and Immunology on the Research Track

*Celebrating Milestone Years of Service
in Pathology & Immunology*

Thirty-Five Years

Paul Allen, PhD
Jennifer Lackner
Robert Schreiber, PhD
Emil Unanue, MD

Thirty Years

Michael Issacs

Twenty-Five Years

Rhonda Porche-Sorbet

Twenty Years

Pamela Anderson
Jeannie Doerr
Rosa Montileone

Fifteen Years

Joseph Corbo, MD, PhD
George Despotis, MD
Connie Myers
Xiaoli Wang, PhD

Ten Years

Jonathan Bihr
Takeshi Egawa, MD, PhD
Monica Griggs
Eynav Klechevsky, PhD
Janice Muckerman
Susan Pagano
S. Joshua Swamidass, MD, PhD