On Jan 25, 2010, the selection process to determine my successor was launched. Approximately 18 months before the end of my second term as Chair/Chief of Pathology and Lab Medicine, a UWO and London hospitals joint selection committee has been struck. The composition of the committee is broad and includes 4 elected departmental members, members of the UWO and Hospital communities at large, key authorities both all institutions and 4 elected extra-departmental faculty.

As part of this process, the department has submitted a self assessment document which included the departmental performance and SWOT analysis since the last review (2005). I would like to take this opportunity to thank all academic leaders for their prompt and excellent submissions. This document is extremely important in a number of ways: it helps set the stage for an external review that will take place in the early spring and also helps the committee develop the job description of my successor. I expect that many of you will have the opportunity to help shape the recruitment process of our next Chair/Chief.

Although it may seem a lengthy process, the expectation is that once the external review is completed and the job description finalized, there will be a call for applications with interviewing of applicants sometime in the fall of 2010. My term ends on June 30, 2011.

I look with great anticipation to this process as we continue to grow as a highly respected and desirable program and look forward working with my successor.

Bertha Garcia, MD
Medical Leader
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Program
Chair/Chief of Pathology

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We welcome Drs. Chris Howlett and Aaron Haig as full-time clinical pathologists and Assistant Professors effective January 1, 2010. Both completed residency training with us.

We congratulate Dr. Jeremy Parfitt and Christine on their new baby girl Olivia, born January 6, 2010.

Congratulations go to Dr. Elena Tugaleva on her success at the Forensic Pathology Fellowship exams.

Congratulations go to Drs. Fahd Al-Sufian and Murad Alturkustani for excellent case presentation at the CANP meeting and also to Dr. Joanne Sy, visiting observer, for winning the Mary Tom Award for best presentation in clinical neuropathology by a trainee.

CaRMS applicants will be interviewed during the week of February 8-12. We anticipate interviewing 25 applicants this year for the Anatomical Pathology program.
Graduate Student Updates

September was busy with the new students getting comfortable in their labs and courses and applying for National and Provincial Scholarships. We would like to wish “good luck” to everyone who applied. We would like to extend congratulations to Jennifer Mutrie, MSc Candidate (Supervisors; Drs. Ann Chambers and Alan Tuck) for being awarded a CIHR-CGS Banting & Best Master’s Award for 2009-2010.

October was an extremely rewarding experience for our Graduate Program and Department. Our Course and Practicum Based Graduate Program (Pathologists’ Assistant) is in the process of being accredited by NAACLS (National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences) and reviewers came for a site visit on October 5th & 6th. The visit was very successful and we will be receiving notification in the spring of our being accepted. A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the process.

In November the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry had a Graduate Open House, overall it was a great day!! We had a lot of interest in our programs. We would like to thank the students and faculty who volunteered their time.

We have three new students beginning in the Winter Term. We would like to extend a warm welcome to:

Ms. Jessica Dubrick, MSc Candidate with Dr. Rennian Wang
Mr. Leo Siu, PhD Candidate with Dr. W.P. Min
Mr. Ilia Tikhomirov, PhD Candidate (Part-time) with Dr. Jim Koropatnick

Currently, we have 31 Full-time/Part-time MSc/PhD Students, 3 Part-time MSc - Oral Maxifacial Graduate Students and 8 Full-time Pathologists’ Assistants Students.

Undergraduate Student Updates

A web-based mandatory skin module has been developed for clinical clerks. This multi-disciplinary case based teaching module was developed by Dr. Mariamma Joseph and Tiffany Kwok an undergraduate student, utilizing expertise from a multi-disciplinary group of specialists (dermatologists, pathologist, plastic surgeon and pediatrician) from UWO. This teaching module is posted in webCT for student self directed learning, under family medicine year 3 block. Funding was obtained from the Instructional Innovation & Development fund, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, UWO.

Awards

Congratulations go to the following faculty members who all received a USC Teaching Honour Roll Award of Excellence (2008-2009). They are Drs. Candace Gibson, Aaron Haig, Kamilia Rizkalla, David Driman, Madeleine Moussa and Ian Welch. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to undergraduate teaching in Pathology and Medicine.

Dr. Michele Weir was awarded the 2009 M.E. Kirk Award for excellence in residency education. Congratulations go to her.

Dr. Paul Adams (Dept. of Medicine) will be the recipient of the 2010 Canadian Liver Foundation (CLF)/Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver (CASL) Gold Medal on February 28, 2010. Congratulations go to him.
Dr. Candace Gibson (PI) has received funding from the Office Interprofessional Health & Research for 1 year for her project entitled “Information technology and interprofessional health care”.

Drs. Ann Chambers (PI) and Alan Tuck (coPI) have been awarded a research grant from CIHR for 1 year under the Canadian Graduate Scholarships relating to the Banting & Best Master’s Award given to graduate student Jennifer Mutrie.

Drs. David Driman (PI), Mara Caragea (Co-I), Joanne Sy (Co-I) and Jeremy Parfitt (Co-I) have received a Pathology Internal Fund for Academic Development (PIFAD) award for their research project titled “Tumor budding and perineural invasion are independent and reproducible prognostic factors in colorectal carcinoma”.

Drs. Michele Weir (Co-PI), Bret Wehrli (Co-PI) and Areej Shibani (Co-I), have received a Pathology Internal Fund for Academic Development (PIFAD) award for their research project titled “Cytology Immunomarker Validation Study”.


Gabril, MY, Yousef GM. Informatics for practicing anatomical pathologists: marking a new era in pathology practice. Mod Pathol Jan 15, 2010 (epub ahead of print)
Howlett CJ, Tweedie EJ, Driman DK.


Nicolas MM, Tamboli, P, Gomez, JA, Czerniak BA.
Pleomorphic and dedifferentiated leiomyosarcoma: clinicopathologic and immunohistochemical study of 41 cases. Hum Pathology (epub ahead of print).

Ranger A, Szymczak A, Hammond RR, Zelcer S.


Xu, Q, Mohamed, SS, Salama, MMA, Kamel, M, Rizkalla K.


You may have noticed this picture on signs and buses around London. It is our own Dr. Meg McLachlin. This is part of the OMA’s public information campaign to highlight physicians’ commitment to patients.