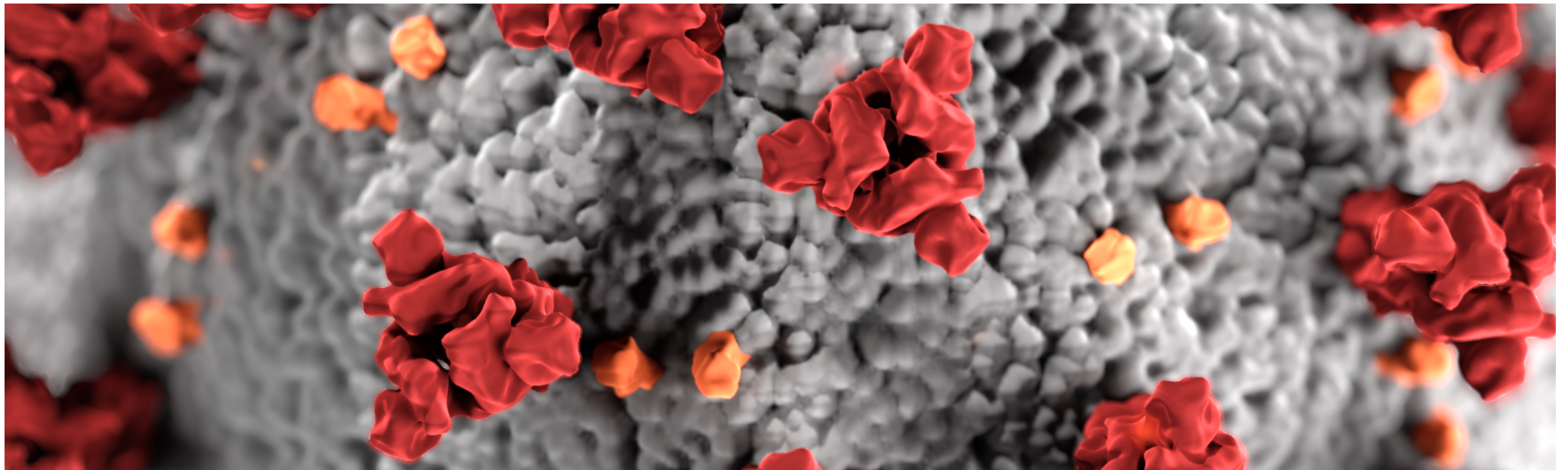


*Path*FINDER



SUMMER 2020



PathFINDER

Welcome to the 11th installment of the *PathFINDER*, the spring/summer edition which we traditionally dedicate to the various transitions occurring within our department. All of our preparations for transitions were overlaid by the Coronavirus pandemic while we watched its full impact around the globe, country, state, and UNM HSC. With UNMH being the premier intensive care facility in the state, our hospital did an amazing job of leading the efforts of caring for the sickest New Mexicans with COVID-19. The hospital shifted to massive preparations for an anticipated surge of COVID-19 cases which essentially shut down access to the hospital to all but COVID-19 patients and other emergency care.

Our department halted most in-person efforts and embraced Zoom conferencing for education, clinical work, research, and administrative endeavors. Our pathology research laboratories maintained progress with a minimal on-site presence. The leaders from TriCore Reference Laboratories contribute to this issue of our newsletter with an account of how they strategically managed Coronavirus testing to become one of the nation's leaders in number of COVID-19 tests per capita.

In face of all this, our important transitions proceeded on target and in this issue we highlight our recent graduates and welcome our newest incoming members to the department, from residents to new faculty. You will be able

to read about the accomplishments of several of our award-winning faculty. Our search for a permanent chair is progressing and I continue to be honored to serve as interim chair for this amazing department. Enjoy this special issue of the *PathFINDER*!

Please follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).



NANCY JOSTE, MD
Professor & Interim Chair of Pathology

SUMMER 2020

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Cover image: This illustration, created at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), reveals ultrastructural morphology exhibited by coronaviruses.

FEATURE

COVID-19 INTERVIEW WITH TRICORE REFERENCE LABORATORIES

BY DOUGLAS CLARK, MD, CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY
DAVID GRENAME, PHD, CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY
KARISSA CULBREATH, PHD, D(ABMM), CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY

How were TriCore and UNMH uniquely positioned to address COVID-19 testing needs?

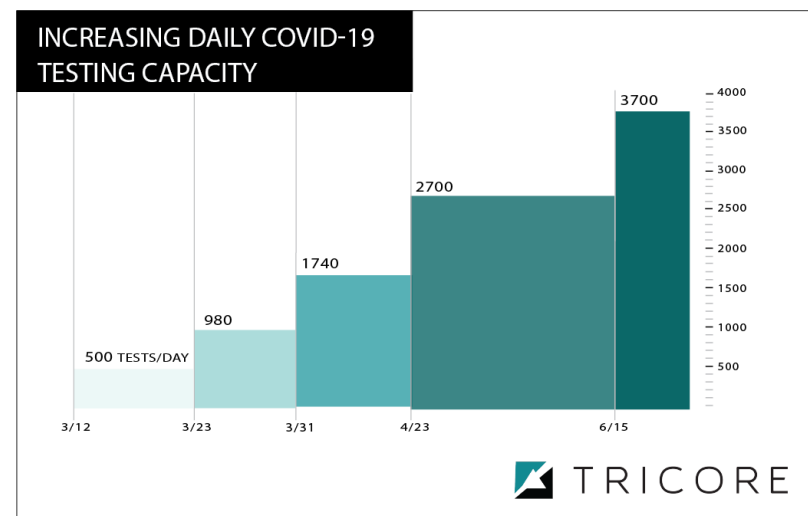
TriCore's diverse state-wide operation, including its partnership with UNMH, permitted rapid execution and deployment of a scalable CoV-2 testing strategy. One key to our success was our ability to capitalize on pre-existing relationships with the State Department of Health, the State lab, and other State leaders to quickly execute a statewide collaborative approach to COVID-19 testing. Because of our deep expertise, many TriCore medical directors served as key advisors to the State leadership in crafting our testing strategy.

TriCore launched the CDC assay for COVID-19 testing on March 12, 2020, one day after the first positive case in New Mexico. In the weeks that followed, we quickly brought on additional instrumentation, bringing us to the capacity we are maintaining today based on supply chain availability. Our strategy has been to use multiple platforms to meet New Mexico's capacity needs and to be able to maintain testing during potential reagent shortages by any one manufacturer. In addition to the centralized high output testing at our Core Lab facility, we have placed rapid testing devices in our hospital labs giving the care teams the ability to prioritize high impact cases.

Via this strategy, TriCore was able to quickly expand our services beyond our existing sponsors and clients to provide testing for nursing homes, assisted living facilities and detention centers. This week we are approaching a quarter million COVID-19 tests, and we have maintained average turnaround times under 72 hours, while prioritizing hospital patients within 24 hours.

What are ongoing challenges you are facing with the continued impact of COVID-19?

The ongoing challenges are many: Reliable supply chains for swabs, tubes, transport media, testing reagents, and PPE remain a serious concern. It's an "item du jour" when it comes to supplies. Some weeks it's reagents and other times it's media. The lack of



predictable and reliable supplies is a serious impediment and a constant source of angst.

Increased demands for testing are also a challenge. There is limited capacity at TriCore and across New Mexico to perform PCR testing and, increasingly, demand is exceeding capacity.

For daily updates, please [visit the TriCore COVID-19 Data Center](#)

FACULTY REDEPLOYMENT PLAN

BY NANCY JOSTE, MD, PROFESSOR AND INTERIM CHAIR OF PATHOLOGY

Around mid April, all of the clinical chairs were notified of the need to provide clinical faculty for staffing the UNMH non-ICU Covid inpatient units in anticipation of a significant surge in COVID-19 inpatients at UNMH. This would be a redeployment of faculty from their usual assigned duties within their departments. The chairs were asked to tier our clinical faculty in three tiers:

- Tier 1: ready for redeployment for 1-2 weeks
- Tier 2: redeployment following tier 1
- Tier 3: faculty to serve as clinical backup of pathology services for redeployed tier 1 and tier 2 faculty

The pathology clinical faculty were asked to volunteer for the various tiers. We had an excellent response with six faculty volunteering for Tier 1, another six for Tier 2, and the remainder in Tier 3. Some of the faculty in Tier 3 took on additional responsibilities in other departmental divisions which were understaffed at that time. UNMH devised a schedule for the month of May with both Tier 1 and 2 faculty with redeployment assignments.

Pathology faculty, most of whom were many years out from clinical service, were assigned to a 4-member inpatient care team consisting of an experienced internal medicine or family medicine attending, a family medicine or internal medicine resident, another resident from some other service, and a pathology faculty. We were informed that pathology faculty would essentially be functioning as interns, which seemed appropriate.

In preparation for redeployment, Tier 1 and 2 faculty started online training as for the procedures they would be asked to do during redeployment. Some faculty shadowed the current non-ICU COVID-19 teams to gain familiarity with the service.

There were specific triggers for Tier 1-2 redeployment based on the number of non-ICU COVID-19 inpatients at UNMH. Although our tiers were set to participate, at the time of actual surge, most of the COVID-19 patients were admitted directly to the ICU where they were cared for by the critical-care, surgical, and anesthesiology teams. We never reached a point at UNMH where any of our faculty were redeployed due to the low number of non-ICU COVID-19 inpatients.

Now in August, the number of COVID-19 cases in New Mexico and COVID-19 inpatients at UNMH is on a slow decline, a trend which hopefully will continue.

FELLOWSHIPS TRANSFUSION MEDICINE

BY KENDALL CROOKSTON, MD, PHD, FCAP
PROFESSOR, LABORATORY MEDICINE/TRANSFUSION MEDICINE
PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE TRANSFUSION MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP



Dr. Huang

Dr. Jane Huang attended Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and did her AP/CP residency in pathology at the University of Michigan and Washington University School of Medicine, followed by a hematopathology fellowship at Northwestern University. After taking time off to raise a family, she decided to embark on a new, but related subspecialty with a fellowship here at UNM in Transfusion Medicine.

We have enjoyed having Jane with us very much this year! Dr. Huang is solid, reliable, and hardworking; she works well with the nurses, technologists, and other physicians. She is an excellent team player. She has good bedside manner, and patients enjoy interacting with her. Her decisions are not only influenced by medical knowledge, but by practical experience—both inside and outside of the hospital. This serves to give her a ‘leg up’ on fellows that do not have as much ‘life experience.’

She has really enjoyed living in the Pacific Northwest the past 20 years. Seattle is her hometown, and she came to New Mexico with a desire to work there after her fellowship (where her husband is currently practicing cardiology at Swedish Medical Center).

We are excited to report that she will be joining the regional blood center in Seattle (BloodWorks) as an associate medical director soon after completing her fellowship!

FELLOWSHIPS CYTOPATHOLOGY

BY NADJA FALK, MD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND SENIOR DIRECTOR OF UNMH CYTOPATHOLOGY SERVICE



Dr. Hakim

The University of New Mexico Department of Pathology is pleased to recognize our cytopathology fellow graduating in June 2020, Dr. Omar Hakim. Dr. Hakim received his medical degree from The Aga Khan University in Pakistan and completed Anatomic Pathology residency at the University of Western Ontario. He joined us after practicing in Canada for several years. Dr. Hakim’s previous experience has been beneficial for his resident and medical student teaching. During the course of his fellowship, Dr. Hakim has become very proficient at ultrasound-guided fine needle aspirations (US-FNA) and also attended the College of American Pathologists US-FNA advanced practical pathology program. In 2020-2021, Dr. Hakim will be doing a bone and soft tissue fellowship at The Miller School of Medicine in Miami. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Hakim for his hard work this year.

We would also like to welcome our incoming fellow, Dr. Marissa Tafoya!



Dr. Tafoya

Marissa Tafoya, MD

Degree: MD from University of New Mexico, School of Medicine
AP/CP Residency: University of New Mexico, Department of Pathology
Staying here in Albuquerque, NM

FELLOWSHIPS

FORENSIC PATHOLOGY

BY DR. LAUREN DVORSACK, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ASSOCIATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR
PATHOLOGY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The University of New Mexico Forensic Pathology Fellowship is honored to have the opportunity to recognize our outstanding fellows graduating in June 2020. Drs. Nicole Jackson, Benjamin Murie, Catherine Nicka, and Karen Ziegler have been an invaluable, integral part of our division by providing autopsy and general medico-legal services to the state of New Mexico during their fast-paced, year-long fellowship. They all handled a wide variety of complex, and sometimes high-profile cases with the upmost professionalism and integrity.



Dr. Jackson

Nicole Jackson, MD, MPH

Dr. Nicole Jackson received her medical degree from Tulane School of Medicine and completed a Master's of Public Health concurrently. She then spent a year training in general surgery, before transferring into a combined anatomic and clinical pathology program at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. Dr. Jackson has spearheaded multiple case reports and larger scholarly projects during her fellowship, most recently organizing data on autopsy cases of COVID-19. Her ability to brighten the fellow's room with her decorative style and New Orleans taste will certainly be missed by us all as she joins the forensic pathologist team at the Cook County Medical Examiner's office in Chicago, IL.



Dr. Murie

Benjamin Murie, DO

Dr. Benjamin Murie received his medical degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. After completing pathology training at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, he became board certified in anatomic and clinical pathology. Dr. Murie promoted a sense of teamwork and brought a seemingly instant camaraderie to the fellowship group, perhaps stemming from his experiences in leadership in the Boy Scouts of America, or with raising three young girls. We will certainly miss his "dad jokes" as he moves on closer to home, taking a forensic pathologist position at the Clark County Coroner's Office in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Dr. Nicka

Catherine Nicka, MD

Dr. Catherine Nicka received her medical degree from Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. She completed an anatomic and clinical pathology residence at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center prior to her arrival in New Mexico. Her non-nonsense approach to casework, dry wit, and unmistakable laughter will certainly be missed on a daily basis as she leaves the Office of the Medical Investigator to begin an additional fellowship in surgical pathology at The University of New Mexico.



Dr. Ziegler

Karen Ziegler, DO

Dr. Karen Zeigler received her medical degree from the A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona. She then completed a combined anatomic and clinical pathology residency at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center. She came to us with extensive experience as a histotechnologist, research assistant, and public service aide, and she had a clear dedication to enhancing the educational experience of anyone who walks by her table in the autopsy suite. She will be missed as leaves us to return home, after accepting a position at the Office of the San Francisco Medical Examiner in California.

We want to congratulate all of our graduating forensic fellows and welcome our new forensic fellows for 2020-2021!



Dr. Boecking

Carolin Boecking, MD

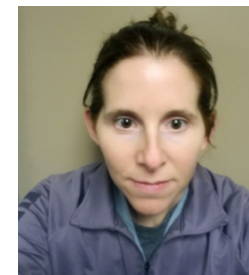
Degree: MD from Albert-Ludwigs University Freiburg, Germany
AP/CP Residency: University of California, San Francisco
Coming to us from San Francisco, CA



Dr. Helmrich

Emily Helmrich, DO

Degree: Master of Medical Science from University of South Florida
DO from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
AP/CP Residency: The University of New Mexico, Department of Pathology
Staying here in Albuquerque, NM



Dr. Sundell

Zoe Sundell, MD

Degree: MD from Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences
Transitional Intern and AP/CP Residency: Madigan Army Medical Center
Coming to us from position as Chief, Department of Pathology, Evans Army Community Hospital in Fort Carson, CO



Dr. Yell

Paul Yell, MD

Degree: MD from UT Houston (McGovern) Medical School
AP/CP Residency: UT Southwestern
Coming to us from Dallas, TX

FELLOWSHIPS

HEMATOPATHOLOGY

BY DR. DANIEL BABU, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, HEMATOPATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, ASSOCIATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR PATHOLOGY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The UNM Hematopathology Fellowship program recognizes our outstanding group of graduating fellows. Each has played a significant role in covering UNM and TriCore consultation services, also participating in resident teaching and research while providing excellent clinical care.



Dr. Coffman

Brittany Coffman, MD

Dr. Brittany Coffman earned her MD from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine with completion of a post-sophomore fellowship and stayed at UNM for her AP/CP residency training where she also served as chief resident. She has been highly productive during her training with completion of several QI and research projects including a case report of cryptic acute promyelocytic leukemia. She is an active member of the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP), serving on the Training and Education Committee, and was named as one of ASCP's Top 40 Under 40 in 2019. Dr. Coffman will be staying on as a Molecular Genetic Pathology fellow at UNM for 2020-2021.



Dr. Gridley

Heather Gridley, MD

Dr. Heather Gridley earned her MD from the University of Central Florida College of Medicine. She completed AP/CP residency training at Orlando Health in Florida where she was also chief resident. During her time at UNM she has successfully completed multiple projects including an accepted presentation at the upcoming College of American Pathologists meeting. Heather will next be returning to Florida to complete an Oncologic Surgical Pathology fellowship at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa.



Dr. Judd

Andrew Judd, MD

Dr. Andrew Judd earned his MD from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and afterward completed his AP/CP residency training at UNM where he was also chief resident. He stayed on for consecutive fellowships in Molecular Genetic Pathology (2018-2019) and Hematopathology (2019-2020). Andy has remained productive during his fellowship training, with multiple research presentations at AMP in 2019. He will be starting the next phase of his career at Pacific Pathology Associates in Salem, Oregon.



Dr. Yaseen

Alae Yaseen, MD

Dr. Alae Yaseen earned his MD from the University of Kufa in Iraq and his MS in Human Genetics from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. He completed his AP/CP residency training at University of Louisville in Kentucky in 2018, then took on surgical pathology fellowship training at University of California Davis. Alae is continuing his UNM fellowship training after an off-cycle start and will be completing training in August.

We want to congratulate all of our graduating hematopathology fellows and welcome our new fellows for 2020-2021!



Dr. Dubyk

Favia Dubyk, MD

Degree: MD from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine
AP/CP Residency: The University of New Mexico, Department of Pathology
Staying in New Mexico



Dr. Kerwin

Audra Kerwin, MD

Degree: MD from University of New Mexico, School of Medicine
AP/CP Residency: University of New Mexico, Department of Pathology
Staying in New Mexico



Dr. Kunak

Rebecca Kunak, DO

Degree: BS in Biochemistry from University of Tampa
DO from Edward College of Osteopathic Medicine - Carolinas Campus
AP/CP Residency: Medical College of Georgia at AU Medical Center
Coming from Augusta, GA



Dr. Odeyemi

Olumide Odeyemi, MD

Degree: Ross University School of Medicine
AP/CP Residency: University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Coming from Aurora, CO

FELLOWSHIPS

MOLECULAR GENETIC PATHOLOGY

BY DR. MOHAMMAD VASEF, PROFESSOR, PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE MOLECULAR GENETIC PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

The University of New Mexico Molecular Genetic Pathology (MGP) Fellowship is delighted to recognize our current MGP fellows graduating June 30, 2020. Dr. Laura Toth and Dr. Jonny Gralewski have been invaluable assets to our Department and TriCore Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory in several new test validations and assistance in COVID-19 virology testing.

Dr. Laura Toth received her medical degree from Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Iowa. She then completed her master's in public health at the Dartmouth Institute followed by completion of residency training in combined anatomic and clinical pathology at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in New Hampshire. Laura completed her Hematopathology Fellowship last year here at The University of New Mexico before her current MGP fellowship. In addition to her direct and active involvement in several molecular assay developments, Laura has been very productive in research activities including publishing a book chapter entitled 'myeloid gene panel testing with correlation to updated clinical practice guidelines' in collaboration with Dr. Babu and another book chapter entitled 'RNA seq and RNA expression profiling' in collaboration with Drs. Franklin and Chabot-Richards during her fellowship. We are honored that Laura will be staying with us at UNM HSC as Clinical Instructor with signing privileges in hematopathology and molecular genetic pathology.



Dr. Toth

Dr. Jonathon (Jonny) Gralewski received his medical degree from the college of Osteopathic Medicine at Kansas City University and Biosciences. He then completed a residency in combined anatomic and clinical pathology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Jonny completed his Hematopathology Fellowship last year at UNM before his current MGP Fellowship. Jonny has been actively involved in multiple assay developments and molecular test validations as well as assistance in COVID-19 virology test validation. Jonny has also been very productive in research during his MGP fellowship. He published a book chapter entitled 'diffuse large B-cell lymphoma with chronic inflammation' in collaboration with Dr. Babu. He also presented his research works in national meetings including one entitled 'Detection of EGFR exon 18-21 hotspot mutations using a fully automated cartridge-based assay with ultra-rapid turn-around time' in collaboration with Drs. Toth and Vasef at USCAP Annual Meeting. Jonny will be joining the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota as Director of Flow Cytometry and Associate Director of Molecular Pathology.



Dr. Gralewski

We want to congratulate all of our graduating molecular genetic pathology fellows and welcome our new fellows for 2020-2021!



Dr. Abdallah

Adel Abdallah, MD

Degree: MBBS from College of Medicine - University of Jordan
AP/CP Residency: University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN
Coming to us from Memphis, TN



Dr. Coffman

Brittany Coffman, MD

MD from University of New Mexico, School of Medicine
AP/CP Residency: University of New Mexico, Department of Pathology
Staying here in Albuquerque, NM

FELLOWSHIPS

SURGICAL PATHOLOGY

BY DR. SAM REYNOLDS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR



Dr. Rupp

After six long, doleful years, it is finally time to say goodbye to Dr. Aaron Paul Rupp. Amongst the most inexplicably morose and intermittently bearded of trainees to ever haunt the resident room, one scarcely know where to start in eulogizing his time in the Land of Enchantment. One thing is certain: after Dr. Rupp putters across our border in his tiny Honda Fit hatchback, life at UNM will never be the same. So sit back, and listen to this brief cautionary tale. First, the facts.

Aaron is from Kansas (although that's actually not an intentional part of this roast), where he spent his undergraduate years at Fort Hays State University. Fun tidbit: if you Google this school, the first photo that comes up literally just shows some forlorn bison in an icy, otherwise empty field. His double-major was in "General Science" (how wonderfully non-committal) and Psychology (how tragically ironic). Not satisfied with the exotic surroundings of Hays State U, medical school saw Dr. Rupp bravely venturing down the road to the University of Kansas. Given his well-known

status as a self-denigrating over-achiever, it won't be surprising to hear that Aaron earned a bunch of Midwestern-type accolades during these years, with words like "excellence," "outstanding," and "leaders of tomorrow" in their titles. I suspect that these awards allowed him special access to the bison. I know that you will never hear him mention these accomplishments, because Dr. Rupp is nauseatingly humble.

In 2014, the average morale of the UNM Pathology Resident was to plummet, when Dr. Rupp heroically overcame his crippling fear of flying and chose to join our AP/CP training program (or perhaps he was simply a victim of the Match, and was in fact viciously ripped away from his beloved frozen Kansan hellscape). In the high desert he was to continue his streak of Midwestern-style self-flagellation, downing copious amount of shite breakroom coffee and working at his desk long after others had left for the day (Aaron, your philodendrons just called, they're waiting for you to come home and water them). At UNM, Dr. Rupp's tedious record of accomplishment was to continue. Should anyone care, he was nominated to the Chief Resident position, where he dispatched his duties with a frankly annoying degree of professionalism, and was also awarded Resident of the Year in 2017. His aptitude for Surgical Pathology and Cytopathology emerged early - but perhaps not early enough for Aaron Paul, because God forbid you ever had to correct him on a case. For Dr. Rupp, realizing that he's made a mistake clearly means that he has disgraced his ancestors AND future descendants, for all eternity. Unfortunately, Aaron sometimes brought shame onto himself personally as well as professionally, as when he clearly indicated during one of our scope sessions that

he hated the song "Safety Dance" by Men Without Hats. I thought we were simpatico, Dr. Rupp.

Nevertheless, shame and hard work are clearly effective teachers. APR finished his residency, became Board-certified (in spite of claiming ad nauseum that he was "going to fail"), and went on to successfully complete UNM Fellowships in Cytopathology (2018-2019) and Surgical Pathology (2019-2010). Along the way Dr. Rupp has become an outstanding diagnostician and valued colleague. I'll never forget the day that Aaron correctly identified some extraordinarily subtle findings of the parasitic flatworm echinococcus within a lung cytology specimen. In doing so, he pushed past even this author's initial skepticism to the correct diagnosis. Note that this is particularly laudable, as echinococcus is a diagnosis that we here in New Mexico almost never see; I'm confident that the vast majority of our group would have missed it (this does make me wonder if echinococcus is common in bison). Still not content (I simply cannot ever picture Rupp content), Aaron went on to present his findings at the annual College of American Pathologists meeting, where he described a novel method for identifying the refractile echinococcal cyst parts under the microscope. Dr. Rupp named this the "flip-out" method, although he briefly toyed with a slightly different name. Aaron also presented all year at an Obstetrics and Gynecology conference.

I will conclude by revealing that Aaron actually asked to be roasted in this piece, a request that I think is indicative of his good nature. He even went so far as to supply the author with what he considered roast "fodder," mostly a long list of meaningless mistakes that every other resident has made, none of which has been used in the preceding. Nice try, Rupp. Interestingly, he DID reveal that he goes to bed at 8:00 pm every night. Frankly, I don't even know what to do with this information; I guess I'd suggest that he save it for his early application to the AARP. Ultimately, when all is said and done, Aaron has been a true asset to our program, and we have watched him progress with admiration and pride.

So, Dr. Rupp, here's looking at you. You're our most beloved sullen trainee ever to come through the program, and as you metaphorically click your ruby-red hooklets together and go on to your private practice job in Kansas, over-qualified but probably not under-paid, think of us fondly, and know that you will be missed.

We would also like to welcome our new Surgical Pathology Fellow, Dr. Catherine Nicka!



Dr. Nicka

Catherine Nicka, MD

Degree: MD from Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine

AP/CP Residency: Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

Forensic Fellowship: University of New Mexico

Staying here in Albuquerque, NM

FELLOWSHIPS

POST-SOPHOMORES

ROBERT ALLEN BY DR. DAVID CZUCHLEWSKI, PROFESSOR, HEMAPATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND ANDREW SANCHEZ BY DR. DAVID MARTIN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



Robert Allen

The department congratulates Robert S. Allen on the successful completion of a post-sophomore fellowship year with us! Robert is a medical student at the UNM School of Medicine, and will now enter his third year of medical school.

Robert used this year to deepen his exposure to pathology, and to nurture his interest in our discipline. He approached his work with diligence, professionalism, and was always eager to learn and grow as a physician and a diagnostician. During his time with us in hematopathology specifically, he developed a keen eye for morphology and showed talent for integrating ancillary and clinical data into a complete picture. One measure of a successful PSF is that it becomes challenging to remember that they are not, in fact, residents -- and with Robert's outstanding performance and team-oriented approach, this was indeed the case.

In addition, his interest in teaching was especially noteworthy. During the MS1 Hematology block, Robert volunteered to assist throughout the course, and was a valuable teacher for the students in their small group sessions. He even organized and taught extra review sessions for the students. This was an impressive contribution to our department and to the school of medicine, and it underscores the collegial and scholarly mindset that will serve him so well in his future career – and especially in pathology if, as we hope, he will choose it as his future specialty!



Andrew Sanchez

The UNM Department of Pathology was very fortunate to host Andrew Sanchez as one of our post-sophomore fellows for this academic year. Andrew is currently a medical student at the UNM School of Medicine, now entering into his third year of training.

Andrew was an absolute joy to work with. He is naturally a very curious and eager learner, and has an excellent attitude. Throughout the year, he never shirked a task, worked extremely hard, and put his best foot forward on every rotation. Further, he is responsible and reliable, and has collaborated with me on two separate promising deep learning/artificial intelligence projects. He has a very bright future, and will excel at anything he puts his mind to.

Enjoy your clinical years of medical school Andrew! I hope you do not forget about us in the Department of Pathology, and I selfishly hope you choose pathology as your future specialty!

We congratulate our Post-Sophomore Fellows and would also like to welcome our new PSF for 2020-2021, Michaela Granados!



Michaela Granados

Michaela Granados

Institution: Current medical student at The University of New Mexico school of Medicine, Albuquerque, NM

Pathology Interests: Cytopathology, Molecular Pathology, and Hematology



RESIDENT GRADUATION

FAVIA DUBYK, MD

BY DEVON CHABOT-RICHARDS, MD, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, VICE CHAIR FOR EDUCATION



Dr. Dubyk

for anemia patients will improve test utilization and was selected for a platform presentation at the International Society for Laboratory Hematology annual meeting. She is passionate about improving patient experiences surrounding understanding and interpretation of pathology reports and hopes to continue working in this area throughout her career.

Favia is committed to increasing youth and minority participation- in science as well as in outdoor activities like rock climbing. She has participated in outreach events like Teen Science Café, introducing high school students to the field of pathology. She has written articles about her journeys in medicine and climbing for Gym Climber Magazine and Melanin Base Camp. No stranger to overcoming obstacles, she appeared on American Ninja Warrior not once, but twice during her residency, becoming known for her incredible story as well as her ear piercing screams!

I am looking forward to working with Dr. Favia Dubyk next year during her hematopathology fellowship.

Graduating resident, accomplished rock climber, and future hematopathologist Dr. Favia Dubyk is an inspiration with her enthusiasm, tenacity, and joy. I first met Favia when she was applying for residency and was impressed by her breadth and depth of experiences. Upon meeting her, she explained that any time something caught her interest, she was motivated to explore it to the fullest. Luckily, New Mexico was the perfect place to delve into two of those interests, rock climbing and pathology.

At UNM, Favia has participated in numerous quality improvement and research projects in the fields of hematopathology and dermatopathology. Her work in developing a diagnostic algorithm

EMILY HELMRICH, DO

BY DR. HANNAH KASTENBAUM, FORMER ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



Dr. Helmrich

It seems far too soon for Dr. Emily Helmrich to be graduating! Is it because her smiling, laughing face and other-worldly work ethic bring both joy and a calm sense of competence to every rotation, project, and activity in which she is involved? Is it because she has somehow involved herself in every facet and activity of the department? The short answers are YES and YES! The long answers are slightly more complex.

Before joining the Department of Pathology at UNM, Dr. Helmrich distinguished herself at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM, to insiders) as the president of the Pathology Interest Group and a teaching assistant in the Anatomy and Physiology Laboratory and at the University of South Florida and by presenting research at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research Annual Meeting and the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. Dr. Helmrich continued her quest for research glory during residency with projects culminating in poster and oral presentations about non-invasive follicular neoplasms, validation of urine drug screens in the postmortem setting, establishing organ weight norms from autopsy data, correlation of molecular and immunohistochemical methods for mutational analysis, and association of esophageal necrosis with diabetic ketoacidosis in the postmortem setting at UNM settings and national meetings of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the Association for Molecular Pathologists. The mind spins! While upholding this impossible academic standard, Dr. Helmrich also held the position of Chief Resident in 2018-2019 and won the Resident of the Year Award in 2019. She always made time to assist fellow residents and fellows, faculty, students, and staff alike and still was a shining example of her profession at community events like the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central

New Mexico Discovery Festivals. Worry not, Dr. Helmrich still maintained her hobbies outdoors by exploring NM and elsewhere by hiking, backpacking, camping, and kayaking and indoors by painting and playing the piano. Fortunately for UNM, Dr. Helmrich will be staying in the sunny southwest next year as she has chosen to pursue her fellowship training in Forensic Pathology at the OMI. I know my former colleagues are excited to have her join them.

Dr. Helmrich, many thanks for your mind-boggling efforts and ever-smiling personality! We congratulate you on your graduation and wish you only the best in your personal and professional futures!

AUDRA KERWIN, MD

BY DEVON CHABOT-RICHARDS, MD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, VICE CHAIR FOR EDUCATION



Dr. Kerwin

During her pathology residency, Dr. Audra Kerwin has continuously impressed me with her intelligence, thoughtfulness, hard work, and willingness to help out and contribute to the good of the department, program, and her fellow residents. She has always been willing to take on new challenges, from developing research in applying digital image analysis to hematopathology specimens to hosting a last minute residency welcome party at her apartment complex. It has been a privilege to work with Audra, as her impact has improved our program and our department.

Never one to stay in her comfort zone, Audra is always expanding her horizons and taking on new projects. When she identifies areas of interest, she dives in and works hard to expand her knowledge and abilities. While I'm sure this is very helpful to her, it has been invaluable to the hematopathology service as she often takes on service work during the process- for example, cre-

ating a flow elective that allowed her to fully explore the discipline while improving the orientation and onboarding of our new fellows. Audra came to medicine from a background in research and has always maintained that sense of inquiry and scientific mindset. She is never content to skim the surface of a new idea and is always thinking of ways to further explore and expand her understanding.

In 2018, Audra founded the New Mexico Women in Pathology Professional Society together with her co-residents Emily Helmrich and Brittany Coffman. She noticed that UNM Pathology was a powerhouse of strong women mentors in both the clinical and research spaces, and wanted to formally find a way to collect that experience and mentorship and share it with students, laboratorians, trainees, and junior faculty and pathologists. This organization has organized social gatherings, lectures, and workshops with local and national figures, and is open to all with an interest in supporting and promoting women in pathology.

I am thrilled that Dr. Audra Kerwin will be staying on at UNM for a fellowship in hematopathology followed by a fellowship in surgical pathology.

MARISSA TAFOYA, MD

BY DR. JOSEPH GRIGGS, ASSOCIATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR PATHOLOGY RESIDENCY PROGRAM,
DIRECTOR TRANSFUSION MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



Dr. Tafoya

Dr. Marissa Tafoya is a native New Mexican who received her medical degree from the University of New Mexico. She joined UNM's Pathology residency program in 2016, but believe it or not has been working with the Pathology Department since 2014! During her time in residency, she has been an outspoken advocate for inclusivity, creating the LGBT+ Pathology group, organizing monthly happy hour to promote resident and faculty bonding, and being the only Resident member of ASCP's Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Marissa served as a chief resident this last year, where she led educational sessions and sent out weekly study questions for her fellow residents. In addition to her direct and active involvement with the residency program, Marissa has been very productive in research including publishing in the *Frontiers in Immunology* 'Expression of Programmed Death-Ligand 1 by Human Colonic CD90+ Stromal Cells Differs Between Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's Disease and Determines Their Capacity to Suppress Th1 Cells' and in the *International Journal of Immunology* 'Matrix metalloproteinases cleave membrane-bound PD-L1 on CD90+ (myo) fibroblasts in Crohn's disease and regulate Th1/Th17 cell responses' both in collaboration with Dr. Samedì.

We are more than excited to have Marissa as our cytology fellow for this coming year!

RESIDENT AWARDS

OUR AWARD-WINNING RESIDENTS

Residents of the Year

JOLEE SUDDOCK, DO and AUDRA KERWIN, MD



Dr. Suddock



Dr. Kerwin

Jolee Suddock, DO, and **Audra Kerwin, MD**, both received the Resident of the Year Award. Voted on by Faculty, Residents, and Fellows, this award recognizes a resident that demonstrates excellence in provision of high quality patient care, depth of medical knowledge, demonstration of practice-based learning, communication skills, professionalism, and systems-based practice.

“Most Likely To Climb A Mountain To Save A Cat” Award

FAVIA DUBYK, MD



Favia has been both an avid climber and animal lover for years. It's not hard to imagine her climbing a mountain to rescue, and subsequently adopt, any manner of furry friend that happens to find its way up a mountain. So, for this reason, we believe Favia is fully deserving of the “Most Likely To Climb A Mountain To Save A Cat award!”

“Most Likely to Trick You Into Cannibalism” Award

MARISSA TAFOYA, MD

For several years Marissa has managed to make incredibly realistic human organ cakes for Halloween. They are so realistic in fact, that I am not entirely convinced that they are actually cake. Maybe we will never know for sure... maybe it is better that way. So, for this reason, we believe Marissa is fully deserving of the “Most Likely to Trick You Into Cannibalism Award.”



“Most Successful Identity Thief” Award

AUDRA KERWIN, MD

Audra spent years slowly perfecting the craft of identity theft. Then on October 31st, 2019 she made her move and stole her first identity. To this day when I see Aaron, I'm never sure if it is really him, or Audra, the thief of his identity. I don't know if Audra has plans to steal any more identities in the future, but the incredible success of her first theft wins her the award of “Most Successful Identity Thief.”



“Most Likely to Try to Show Organs to Children” Award

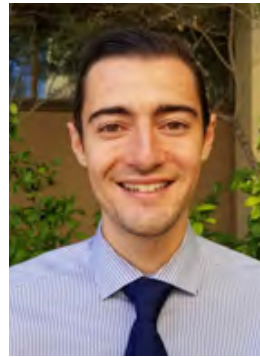
EMILY HELMRICH, DO

Emily can often be found perusing butcher shops looking for animal organs to show children. She takes every opportunity to find large groups of children and encourage them to play with animal organs and human (replica) skulls. While many people with this hobby are likely on a “most wanted” list somewhere, Emily has been able to maintain her professional standing in society, so far. For all of these reasons, we feel Emily is most deserving of the “Most Likely to Try to Show Organs to Children” Award.



OUR NEW RESIDENTS

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR NEW INCOMING PGY1 RESIDENTS!



Dr. Cormier

Christopher Cormier, DO

Dr. Cormier will be joining us from Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Colorado. Chris has had an interest in pathology since high school when his heart was set on forensic pathology. He completed his undergraduate studies at Southern Utah University. He was president of the Pathology Club in medical school and compiled numerous pathology experiences during his rotations. He is an avid hiker and skier, a certified Zumba instructor, and served as a park ranger for the National Park Service. Chris is eager to explore his interest in forensics while enjoying everything Albuquerque has to offer.



Dr. Hukins

Mariah Hukins, MD

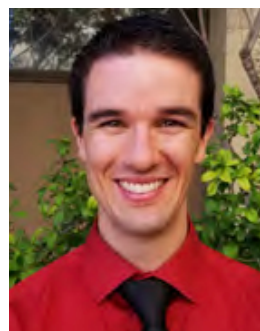
Dr. Hukins will be joining us from University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill. She is originally from North Carolina and earned her undergraduate degree with highest honors from Duke University. Her research interests include the exploration of minority experiences in medical education. Mariah has channeled her creativity as a published artist with interests in painting, T-shirt design, and cartoon art; additional hobbies include boxing and playing the ukulele. She is excited to begin her pathology journey at UNM and potentially explore an interest in forensic pathology.



Dr. Hynes

Kelly Hynes, DO

Dr. Hynes is a native Ohioan who will be joining us from Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. She previously earned her undergraduate degree from Ohio University in Athens, OH. While in medical school, she explored her longstanding interest in pathology (including forensic pathology) with several rotations, including an AP rotation here at UNM this past year where she impressed everyone who met her. She enjoys oil painting and the outdoors, including rafting, camping, and hiking.



Dr. Kunzelman

Landon Kunzelman, MD

Dr. Kunzelman joins UNM from the University of Illinois College of Medicine (Peoria). Landon's pathology interests started in 8th grade from the time he first looked through a microscope. He has demonstrated a commitment to pathology as a founder and President of his school's interest group and his CAP and social media work to improve pipeline to pathology. Not surprisingly, Landon was awarded the 2019 Otto Saphir Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Pathology. Landon's talents are many and include downhill mountain unicycling and music.

MAKE A GIFT

Your gift today impacts healthcare and research for tomorrow. Please consider making a recurring, one time, or legacy donation to one of the following funds:

THE FOUCAR ENDOWMENT

Invest in future Pathologists. Recruiting and training highly proficient Pathology residents and fellows is a top priority.

[VISIT: The Foucar Endowment](#)

THE GEORGE D. MONTOYA RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Encourage UNM students to pursue a career in biomedical research.

[VISIT: The George D. Montoya Research Scholarship Fund](#)

THE THOMAS M. WILLIAMS & MARGARET G. WILLIAMS ENDOWMENT FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Support the greatest educational and training needs within the Department of Pathology.

[VISIT: The Dr. Thomas M. Williams & Margaret G. Williams Endowment for Education and Training](#)

DONATE

Donate by credit card through the UNM Foundation website. Specific links to each Pathology fund are listed at pathology.unm.edu/make-a-gift

Donate by check, estate planning, bequest, charitable annuity, insurance gift, charitable trust and more.

Thank you for thinking of The University of New Mexico Department of Pathology funds as you generously give!

GRADUATE STUDENT AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW NEWS

NEWS ABOUT CURRENT AND FORMER STUDENTS FROM OUR FACULTY LABS

BEARER LAB

2019-2020 BA/MD student **Christopher Medina** graduated SOM 2020. First, he will travel to El Paso for a transitional internship year at Las Palmas Del Sol Healthcare, where he will focus on internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics and surgery. Medina hopes to return to New Mexico afterwards to start giving back to the communities that raised him. **Dan Barto**, ASERT post-doc, has been staff at the New Mexico State Department of Education since December of 2019. **Taylor Uselman** is our BSGP 2nd year graduate student.

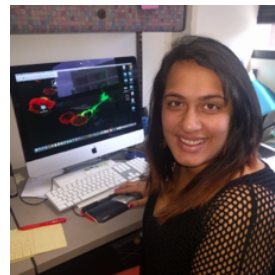
GILLETTE LAB



Victoria Balise

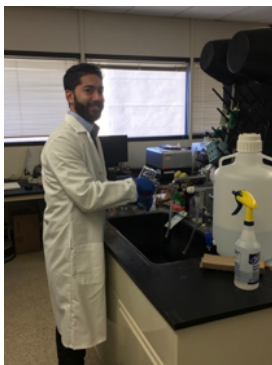
Victoria Balise, PhD, is a Post-Doctoral fellow in the UNM Academic Science, Education and Research Training (ASERT) program working in the laboratory of Dr. Gillette. Over the past year, Dr. Balise received a Minority Affairs Committee Travel Award from the American Society for Cell Biology to attend the December 2019 annual meeting in Washington DC. While attending the meeting, Dr. Balise presented her work on mechanisms of hematopoietic stem cell mobilization in two different sessions, receiving a first place poster presentation award at the Minority Affairs Committee Poster Session. Additionally, at the UNM Cardiovascular Research Day last fall, Dr. Balise received a Poster Presentation Award for the same work.

Muskan Floren, Biomedical Sciences Graduate Student in the Gillette Lab was selected to participate in the highly competitive American Society for Cell Biology – KGI Biotech West Course. She also received a UNM Graduate and Professional Student Association Student Research Grant to attend the American Society for Hematology Meeting in Orlando, FL in December. Ms. Floren's work focused on mechanisms of acute myeloid leukemia chemoresistance was also recognized with a UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center Research Day Outstanding Poster Presentation Award and a 1st Place Oral



Muskan Floren

Presentation Award at The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center Student Research Day. More recently, Ms. Floren was selected to participate in the St. Jude National Graduate Student Symposium and the National Cancer Institute Graduate Student Recruiting Program. She is also the recipient of the 2020 George D. Montoya Scholarship.

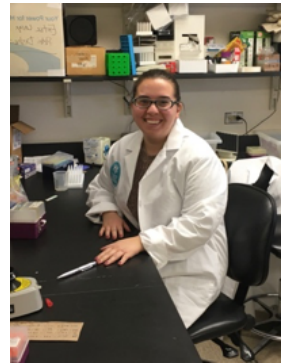


Sebastian Restrepo Cruz

Sebastian Restrepo Cruz, Biomedical Sciences Graduate Student in the Gillette lab received a UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center Research Day Outstanding Poster Presentation Award for his working studying the regulatory role of membrane scaffold proteins. Mr. Restrepo Cruz also received a Travel Scholarship to attend the Synthetic Cell Biology Conference in Santa Fe, NM and an Honorable Mention Poster Award, at

The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center Student Research Day.

Erica Pascetti, Biomedical Sciences Graduate Student, was awarded a Fellowship on the UNM Cardiovascular Physiology Program Training Grant (T-32) for her work in the Gillette lab on hematopoietic stem cell recovery. Ms. Pascetti also received a Minority Affairs Committee Travel Award from the American Society for Cell Biology to attend the December 2019 annual meeting in Washington DC and a UNM Ambassador Travel Award to attend the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native American Scientists Annual Meeting in Honolulu, HI. Ms. Pascetti also received a scholarship to attend the "Differential Gene Expression Workshop" from the NM-INBRE and the National Center for Genome Research (NCGR), in Santa Fe, NM.



Erica Pascetti

LIDKE LAB

Grad students:

- **Will Kanagy** (PhD student, BSGP)
- **Derek Rinaldi** (PhD student, BSGP)
- **Irais Ortiz-Caraveo** (MS student, BME)

Postdocs:

- **Elizabeth Bailey**
- **Elton Jhamba** finished at UNM and has taken a position as Systems Engineer at KLA Tencor in Madison, WI

MARCHETTI LAB

The Marchetti Lab:

- **Ray Kenney, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow

NEUMANN LAB

Akram Etemadi Amin, Physics and Astronomy. News: Currently conducting an internship with Intel where she is learning to perform computational modeling studies of semiconductor nanostructures.

Carmen (Martinez) Villalobos, Biomedical Engineering. News: Anticipated graduation in Aug 2020. She will be starting a research position as a Bioengineer with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency shortly after graduation.

Eddy Anaya, BSGP. News: Anticipated graduation Aug 2020. Recently completed a submitted manuscript on the biochemistry, membrane organization and signaling of antifungal immunoreceptor Dectin-1, and its fungal pathogen ligand, beta-1,3-glucan. Preprint available: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/824995v3>.

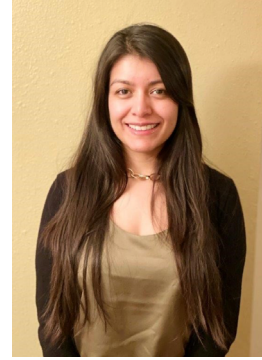
Rohan Choraghe, Biomedical Engineering. News: Anticipated graduation July 2020. Recent paper published: <https://jcs.biologists.org/content/133/5/jcs236166>. Looks forward to starting a postdoc with Dr. David Nauen at Johns Hopkins SOM shortly thereafter.

WANDINGER-NESS LAB

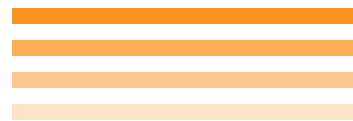
- **Melanie Rivera**, PhD candidate BSGP
- **Leslie Toledo-Jacobo, PhD**, ASERT IRACDA K12 postdoctoral fellow



Melanie Rivera, left, and Muskan Floren



Leslie Toledo-Jacobo



FACULTY NEWS

NEW FACULTY



Dr. Krinsky

We would like to welcome back **Dr. Clarissa Krinsky** to the Department of Pathology and the Office of the Medical Investigator. Dr. Krinsky joined us as an Assistant Professor on Monday, June 1, 2020. Dr. Krinsky is a graduate of The University of New Mexico School of Medicine and completed her Pathology residency here, as well as her Forensic Pathology Fellowship at the OMI.

FACULTY AWARDS



Dr. Babu

Daniel Babu, MD, received the Faculty Teaching Award. Voted on by Residents and Fellows, this award recognizes a faculty member that demonstrates excellence in teaching and mentoring, who goes above and beyond to stimulate intellectual curiosity, excelling in patient care and professionalism in the residents he supervises, and serves as a source of inspiration as a person and physician.



Dr. Wandinger-Ness, right, receiving the AAAS Lifetime Mentor Award

Angela Wandinger-Ness, PhD, was presented with the American Association for the Advancement of Science 2020 Lifetime Mentor Award. Dr. Wandinger-Ness was also the recipient of the Presidential Award of Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM), announced August 3, 2020. This prestigious award was given to Dr. Wandinger-Ness to acknowledge and honor the hard work and dedication she exhibits in broadening participation in the STEM pipeline.

STAFF NEWS

STAFF AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2020 Pathology Staff Award Recipients! This year, as we were unable to host a group reception, we honored our award recipients with this photo collage - and a virtual piece of cake! Congratulations to this year's recipients, listed in alphabetical order: **James Chavez, Rachel Grattan, DeeAnna Gutierrez, Ruth Kief, Karen Leming, Shayna Lucero, Burt Martinez, Cathy Martinez, Angie Miller, Kathy Murray, Teresa Quintana, Daniel Sanchez.**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The University of New Mexico Department of Pathology gratefully acknowledges
Mr. William F. Collins for the design and layout.

Please share your news with: William F. Collins: wfcollins@salud.unm.edu

For more information on our department, please visit our website:

pathology.unm.edu