



# Department of Pathology

## Message from the Chair

Fall 2017



Jiaoti Huang, MD, PhD

Dear Duke Pathology Alumni:

It is hard to believe that my two-year work anniversary at Duke will be just around the corner. I have been overwhelmed by the good wishes and support from many of you. They mean so much to me and to the department.

Many exciting things have happened since our inaugural newsletter. You will be reading about a few of the many accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and trainees, and how your generosity continues to enhance our ability to attract and retain the best minds in the field, as well as support existing and new academic and educational programs.

Our website can be found at [pathology.duke.edu](http://pathology.duke.edu). I encourage you to visit us there often to continue to learn what is happening in the Department. You can also email us at

[pamela.harris@duke.edu](mailto:pamela.harris@duke.edu) if you would like to share any interesting and exciting personal stories or if you have any comments or suggestions. As always, we look forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes,

Jiaoti Huang, MD, Ph.D.

## Welcome New Residents

We are pleased to welcome six First-Year Residents to the Pathology Department.



Mitchell Arbogast, MD,  
State University of NY,  
Buffalo



Marcel Castor, MD,  
Rutgers New Jersey  
Medical School



Jake Maule, MD, PhD,  
University of North  
Carolina, Chapel Hill



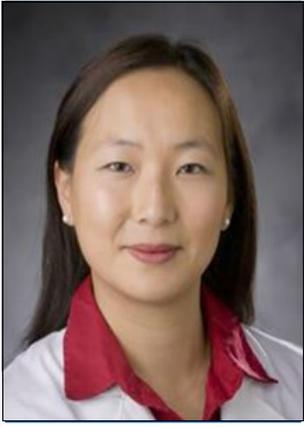
Jenna McCracken, MD,  
PhD, University of Iowa



Rhonda Mittenzwei, MD,  
University of Nevada,  
Reno School of Medicine



Vanessa Smith, MD,  
University of Illinois  
School of Medicine



Xiaoyin “Sara” Jiang,  
MD

## Sara Jiang, MD, named an ASCP ‘40 Under Forty’ TOP FIVE Honoree

Excerpts from the ASCP press release: ***High-Achieving Duke University Pathologist Honored for Professional Excellence***

Xiaoyin “Sara” Jiang, MD, FASCP, was named an ASCP 40 Under Forty TOP FIVE honoree for 2017. She is among five high-achieving pathologists and medical laboratory professionals under age 40 who were selected from the prestigious list.

Dr. Jiang practices cytopathology and surgical pathology of the head, neck and endocrine systems. Her research focuses on diagnostics and prognostics in thyroid nodules and novel uses of social media for medical professionals. The 40 Under Forty recognition has made a powerful impact on all of its honorees, ranging from pronounced recognition within their organization to exciting media attention.

### News and Notes

*The lab of Yiping He, PhD, was recently awarded an NIH R01 grant titled, “Exploiting MTAP Deletion for GBM Therapeutics.”*

*Shannon McCall, MD, Director of the Biospecimen Repository and Processing Core (BRPC), was invited to the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) to present a lecture, host a roundtable, and receive an appointment to the (ISBER) Standards Advisory Committee.*

## Staff Spotlight: Tommy Holloway

Tommy Holloway’s official job title in the Department of Pathology is clerk. What does Tommy do? The better question is, what doesn’t Tommy do?

Tommy started in the Department of Pathology in the 1980s and continued until 1993. After returning to the same position (at the request of Duke) in 2010, he felt excited to come back to Pathology and knew he returned to where he belongs. In his words, “It just felt right.”

Tommy believes he gets out of his job exactly what he puts in—and he puts in his all. He manages and sorts the mail and transports items between Duke University Medical Center, Duke Regional Hospital and Duke Raleigh Hospital, as well as many Duke administrative buildings. Tommy helps us lift and carry objects we need assistance with from time to time, he picks up lunch if you’re sick or injured, and he always makes you laugh. Most importantly, Tommy also arranges his schedule to promptly pick up and drop off visiting candidates we seek who will grow and continue to develop a strong and top notch pathology department.

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## Staff Spotlight: Continued

As a Durham native, Tommy offers a unique perspective to life at Duke for visiting candidates as he transports them from the airport to their hotel, and around the hospital and research labs. Tommy wishes the department's vehicle were a bit more impressive for the candidates. His dream car for our brilliant, focused candidates is a Cadillac STS for a luxurious, smooth ride, just as he envisions the futures of a Duke pathologist!

Known as a very sharp dresser, Tommy has a knack with people.

In his free time, Tommy enjoys shooting pool and bowling, with a high score of 279.

## Faculty Interview — Herman Staats, PhD



Dr. Herman Staats is well recognized in our department as a leader. He is vice chair for research, an internationally recognized leader in the vaccine field, and director of a well-funded research laboratory. However, most of us don't recognize his numerous other leadership roles within and outside of Duke, or his secrets for leading a balanced life.

### **Other than your roles as vice chair for research and principal investigator of an active research laboratory, what other leadership positions do you hold?**

I am director of the Developmental Core for the Center for AIDS Research and I also serve on the Duke School of Medicine Clinical Sciences Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure Committee and the Basic Science Faculty Steering Committee.

### **How do you balance all of your leadership responsibilities?**

Effective time management is central to balancing my responsibilities. In addition, indulging in a hobby that allows me to escape increases my productivity.

### **How do you unwind from the pressures of your multiple leadership roles? What are your hobbies?**

I live out in the country and own a 43-acre farm. Although this is not a working farm, it allows me to indulge in "hobby farming." I own horses and love to garden. These activities are central to my leading a balanced life.

### **What is your most important career contribution?**

In collaboration with my colleague, Soman Abraham, PhD, I have discovered effective adjuvants for nasal immunization. We own patents on these adjuvants and have started a biotech company based on these adjuvants. It is our ultimate goal to test these adjuvants in human clinical trials.

### **As a dedicated mentor, what advice do you offer to young scientists pursuing a career in basic science?**

In my opinion, the keys to success in a basic science career are persistence and effective time management. As scientists, we are constantly being critiqued. This process is constructive because it points out ways to improve our science. I appreciate receiving feedback on my science in the form of grant and manuscript reviews. This feedback allows me to perform the best science. I do not take grant reviews personally. Instead I carefully consider the comments of reviewers, and revise my grant to address these comments. My persistence in submitting revised grants is key to maintaining a well-funded laboratory. In addition, success in the sciences is highly dependent on one's ability to effectively manage their time to balance career and personal activities.



## A Record for Duke Pathology: 11 Fellows

**Khalid Aboul Nasr, MD**, American University of Integrated Sciences, Cytopathology

**Sachica Chervis, MD, MBA**, American University of Antigua, College of Medicine, Cytopathology

**Schell Bressler, MD**, Duke University School of Medicine, Dermatopathology

**Sepehr Hamidi, MD**, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Dermatopathology

**Xin Liu, MD**, Medical Center of Fudan University, Hematopathology

**William Harrison, MD**, Wake Forest School of Medicine, Neuropathology

**Liyan Xu, MD, MS**, China Medical University, Surgical Pathology GI

**Rohini Kannuswamy, MD**, Coimbatore Medical College, Surgical Pathology

**Alyssa Kraynie, MD**, Marshall University School of Medicine, Surgical Pathology

**John Carney, MD**, Creighton University School of Medicine, Thoracic Pathology

**Gustaaf de Ridder, MD, PhD**, Duke University School of Medicine, Anatomic Pathology

## New Faculty Members

After strong recruitment efforts, Duke Pathology has welcomed four new faculty members to the department.

**Lani Kai Clinton, MD, PhD**, GI Pathology  
UC Irvine, PhD, University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine, MD

**Jadee Neff, MD, PhD**, Hematopathology and Molecular Genetic Pathology, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine

**Avani Pendse, MD, PhD**, Urologic, HEENT/Endocrine, Liver, and Cytopathology, Government Medical College and Hospital, Nagpur India, MBBS, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, PhD

**Kyle Strickland, MD, PhD**, Cytopathology and Gynecologic Pathology, Medical University of South Carolina



Lani Kai Clinton, MD, PhD



## New Faculty Continued

### News and Notes

The American Society of Dermatopathology has selected M. Angelica Selim, MD, to receive the 21st Annual Walter R. Nickel Award for Excellence in Teaching in Dermatopathology. This national award may be received only once in a lifetime. Congratulations to Dr. Selim on this distinguished honor.

### Get to Know Our Residents!

*I worked at NASA and although I love floating in zero gravity, lunar gravity is most fun.—  
Jake Maule, Resident*

*My favorite white blood-cell is the neutrophil!—  
Jenna McCracken, Resident*

*I grew up in New Jersey, but have eaten termites, grubs, leaf cutter ants, and peccary while on a ethnopharmacognosy research trip.—Marcel Castor, Resident*



Jadee Neff, MD, PhD



Avani Pendse, MD, PhD



Kyle Strickland, MD, PhD



## 2017 Resident and Fellow Graduation and Awards

### News and Notes

Dr. Jiaoti Huang was the keynote speaker at the Annual Scientific Retreat of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Nebraska Medical Center. He spoke on “Cellular heterogeneity of prostate cancer and therapeutic resistance.”

This important event coincided with the opening of the \$323 million Fred and Pamela Buffet Cancer Center. Dr. Ken Cowan, director of the center, gave Dr. Huang a private tour of the new cancer hospital.

### Presentation

A new award was added this year, the Fred and Janet Sanfilippo Resident Research Award. The award recognizes the oathology resident or fellow who has distinguished themselves in research effort and ability, either from a basic science or clinical research-related project or publication. 2017 is the inaugural year for the award, and it was presented by Fred Sanfilippo, MD, PhD, to fourth-year resident Gustaaf de Ridder, MD, PhD.



Program Director Thomas Cummings, MD, PhD; Keynote Speaker Fred Sanfilippo, MD, PhD; Chairman Jiaoti Huang, MD, PhD.



Dr. Sanfilippo receives an appreciation award from Dr. Huang.



## Development Update — Morgan Pope



**It is my honor to announce the creation of The Fred and Janet Sanfilippo Endowed Lectureship as well as The Fred and Janet Sanfilippo Fellowship in Surgical Pathology.**

We are immensely grateful to Fred Sanfilippo, PhD'75, MD'76, HS'76-79, and his wife, Janet, BA'72, MBA'80, for making generous philanthropic gifts to establish two important educational offerings within the Department of Pathology. Their thoughtful investment in the department will bolster our robust academic environment and inspire future leaders to pursue excellence in the field of pathology. Deeply committed to Duke, Fred and Janet have also been loyal supporters of the School of Medicine annual fund and the Medical Science Training Program.

When asked what motivated his philanthropic support, Fred stated, "The Duke Department of Pathology truly shaped my career, especially in providing incredible mentors and leaders such as Tom Kinney and Bob Jennings, as well as a host of outstanding colleagues. This is a small way of saying thanks and helping the department continue to influence the careers of others."

We celebrate not only these wonderful gifts, but also Fred and Janet's outstanding leadership in support of the department.

With gratitude,

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