



## This issue

From the Chair	P.1
Clinical News	P.2
Education News	P.3
Research News	P.6
Focus on Faculty	P.7
Department Accolades	P.9
Case of the Month	P.10
In Memoriam	P.13

## Save the Date

November 3rd:  
Annual Faculty Mixer  
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM.

November 11th:  
Veterans Day

November 25th:  
Thanksgiving Day;  
Holiday week

December 25th:  
Christmas Day;  
Holiday week

January 1st:  
New Year Day

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I am pleased to resume the publication of our Departmental newsletter, Pathways, that has been on hiatus for some time now. First published quarterly over a decade ago, then bi-annually, the new editions of Pathways will be issued every month or every other month depending on the content. I am proud to reinstate this tradition.

In the relatively brief time that I have been Chair of Pathology, our Department has been confronted by the Covid-19 pandemic and two natural disasters occurring in consecutive Augusts: Hurricane Zeta and Hurricane Ida. The latter storm wreaked havoc throughout southeast Louisiana just two months ago. These trying and difficult times have brought to the forefront the complete resiliency and resourcefulness of our faculty and staff who have met one challenge after another without wavering in their responsibilities, innovativeness and team spirit.

At this writing, the Department stands strong in the role it plays combatting Covid. Our overall research funding remains healthy and strong. The new Pathologists' Assistant Program is growing by leaps and bounds with student enrollment and the Master's Program is a success. We have welcomed eleven new faculty members renowned in Research and Clinical Pathology. We have, for the first time in many years, a faculty member specializing in Clinical Chemistry, which will greatly benefit our resident education and laboratory operation. These new additions will go far in assuring excellent patient care and pathology education. Through all the difficulties of recent times, the Pathology Department remains solid and strong thanks largely to the spirit of its members.

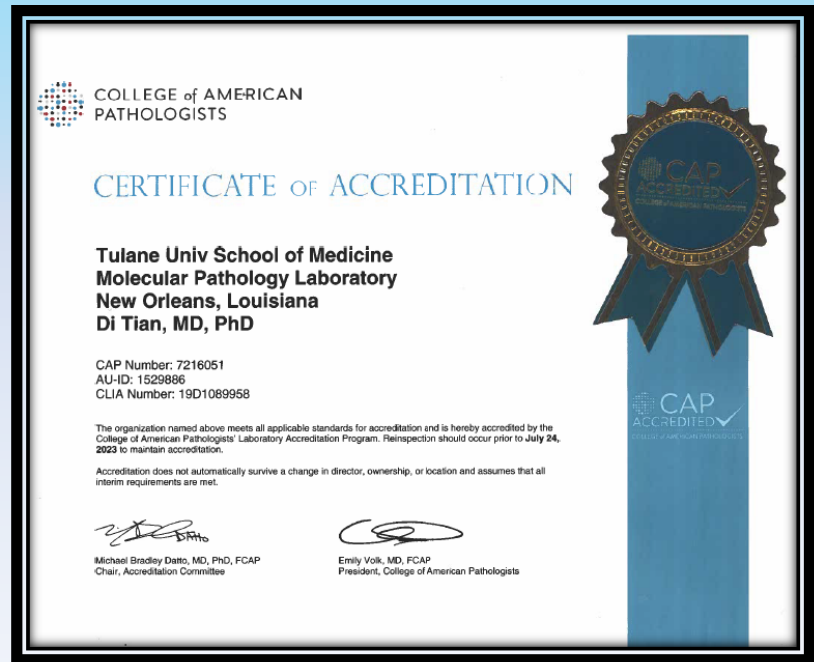
Xiao-Ming Yin, M.D., Ph.D.

Chair and Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

# Clinical News

## SUCCESSFUL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION

The College of American Pathologists recently inspected Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Tulane Medical Center, scrutinizing all sections of the Molecular Pathology Laboratory. The inspectors left with high praise for the quality of work and the great team effort. This certification is valid for two years. Congratulations to the Molecular Laboratory and to Dr. Tian for demonstrating the competence of the laboratory and providing a high standard of service for patients.



## TULANE STUDY FINDS VIRAL LOAD IS NOT A TRUE INDICATOR OF COVID-19 TRANSMISSION RISK

Among the successes of our response to the COVID crisis, a new Tulane University study published an impactful article in the Journal of Molecular Diagnostics finding that cycle thresholds (Ct) from PCR tests aren't a reliable gauge for identifying those most likely to transmit COVID-19.

Some studies and health officials suggested that Ct, which indicate the viral load an infected person carries, from PCR tests of COVID-19 are a possible measure for identifying and isolating individuals that are most likely to spread the virus. Early in the pandemic, the School of Medicine at Tulane University established a high-throughput SARS-CoV-2 testing program to support contact tracing, isolation and quarantine efforts needed to limit viral transmission on campus. The test was developed by Dr. Bob Garry and his team in collaboration with Drs. Xiao-Ming Yin and Di Tian in the Department of Pathology.

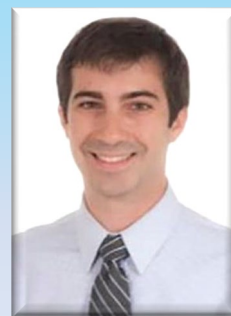
Tulane researchers in this study analyzed Covid-19 testing data from 7,440 Tulane undergraduate students and concluded that the transmissibility of SARS-CoV-2 could not be predicated simply based on the amounts of viral materials detected in the nasopharyngeal swabs. Instead, the study suggests that infected people with even a small amount of virus can be infectious, and thus need to avoid contact with others. The results indicated that Ct values alone do not predict transmission risk. Read more about [This work published in the The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics.](#)

News comments can be found [here](#). [Elsevier.com](#)

# Education News

## LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations to Dr. Ryan Craig, Assistant Professor, on becoming the Associate Director of the Pathology Residency Program starting July 1, 2021



## RESIDENT AWARDS 2020-2021

Determined by Pathology Faculty vote, the winners of the 2020-2021 Residents' Awards are:

### Estelle Oertling, M.D. PGY V

Dr. Oertling received The Richard Reed, M.D. Surgical Award.

*Photo: Dr. Oertling with Dr. Halat*



### Akannsha Singh, M.D. PGY IV

Dr. Singh was awarded The Nina Dhurandhar, M. D. Cytopathology Award.

*Photo: Dr. Singh with Dr. Moroz*



### Robert Wood, Jr., MD. PGY II

Dr. Wood is the recipient of The Rokitansky Award for Excellence in Autopsy.

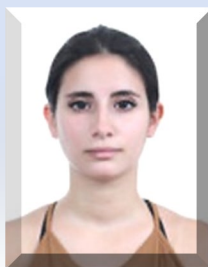
*Photo: Dr. Wood with Dr. Belyaeva*



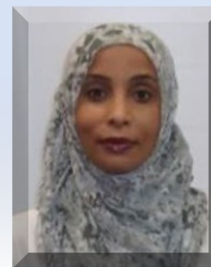
## New Fellows and Incoming Residents



Konrad Bach, MD PGY I



Ghaidaa Majari, MD PGY I



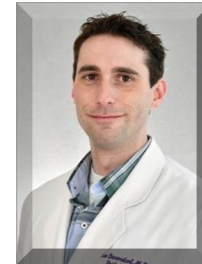
Hanadi Osman, MD PGY I



Nathaniel McLaughlin, MD PGY V  
Cytopathology Fellow



Garrett Vick, MD PGY V  
Dermatopathology Fellow

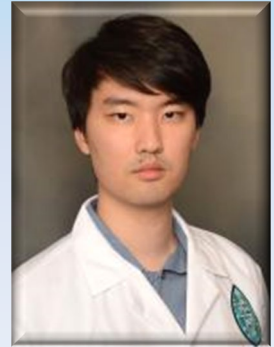


Walter Beversdorf, MD PGY V  
Hematopathology Fellow

# Education News

## PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

Dr. Jonathan Shih, MD PGY IV, Chief Resident, presented a poster at the Annual American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) 2021 Meeting, Boston, MA, October 27-29, titled “Malignant Glomus Tumor of the Kidney: A Case Report and Review of the Literature”. Authors are: Jonathan Shih, MD, Julum Nwanze, MD; Natalie Rolf, MS and Shams Halat, MD.



Dr. Garrett Vick, MD, PGY V, Dermatopathology Fellow, presented a poster at the American Society of Dermatopathology (ASDP) 58th Virtual Annual Meeting, October 20-24, 2021, titled “Spindle Cell Xanthogranuloma”. Authors are: Garrett Vick, MD and Alun Wang, MD, PhD.

Dr. Yingtao Zhang, MD, PhD., Assistant Professor and Director of GI and Liver Pathology Services, presented two posters at the Annual ASCP 2021 Meeting, Boston, MA October 27-29, 2021. Titled: “A Case of Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma Metastasized to the Colonic Anastomotic Site of Right Hemicolectomy” and “A Case of Osseous Metaplasia in a Gastric Hyperplastic Polyp: An Unexpected Finding in a Common Polyp”. Dr. Nakanishi is the co-author.



Karman Mirza, MD, PhD, FASCP, MLS(ASCP) and Sarah Garner, MS, PA(ASCP) presented a session at the ASCP 2021 Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, October 28. Titled: "The Final Frontier in Interprofessional Laboratory Collaboration". In this session, Sarah Garner and Kamran Mirza introduced the attendees to the importance of social media in interprofessional laboratory collaboration (IPLC).

# CONGRATULATIONS AND FAREWELL

Congratulations to our graduates on their achievements

We wish them all great success.

## GRADUATING RESIDENTS 2021

Estelle Oertling, M.D., is a Hematopathology Fellow at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and will be staying in Dallas for a Pediatric Pathology Fellowship the following year.

*Photo: Dr. Oertling with Dr. Schmid*



Julum Nwanze, MD, is a Surgical Pathology Fellow at The University of Texas Medical Branch and once finished there, will pursue further training in Genitourinary Pathology.

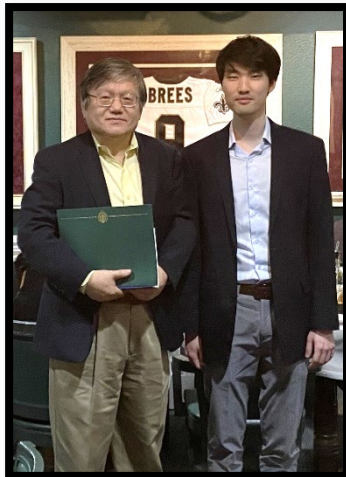
*Photo: Dr. Nwanze with Dr. Schmid*



## GRADUATING FELLOWS 2021

Dr. Jonathan Shih, MD, completed the Dermatopathology Fellowship, and now is completing his Pathology Residency at Tulane.

*Photo: Dr. Shih with Dr. Wang*



Dr. David Borzik, MD, completed the Cytopathology Fellowship, and now is an Assistant Professor in the Tulane University, Pathology Department.

*Photo: Dr. Borzik with Dr. Moroz, Dr. Halat and Dr. Yoxtheimer*



Congratulations to Dr. Abida Kadi, MD PGY V, on completing the Hematopathology Fellowship at Tulane.

*Photo: Dr. Kadi with Dr. Craig and Dr. Belyaeva.*



## 2021 RESEARCH AWARDS

The Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Department congratulates our following Faculty Researchers on their newly awarded grants:

- **Dr. Suzana D. Savkovic**

Title: Regulation of DGAT- dependent lipogenesis in colonic epithelial growth  
\$1,640,398; National Cancer Institute

- **Dr. Zhen Lin**

Title: Human papillomavirus in HIV associated lung cancers  
\$1,748,182; National Cancer Institute

- **Dr. Yi-Ping Li**

Title: Inhibiting inflammation and bone erosion in periodontal disease by targeting cell endogenous negative signaling  
\$1,763,440; National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

Title: Gα13 signaling attenuates periodontal inflammation and alveolar bone loss in the mouse model of age-associated periodontitis  
\$1,763,440; National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

Title: Mechanistic basis of the role of Cbx3 in negatively regulating osteoclast differentiation through epigenetic modification  
\$2,422,265 - National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

Title: Characterizing the negative signaling in dendritic cells and macrophages to attenuate inflammation and bone destruction in Rheumatoid arthritis  
\$1,633,500 - National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

- **Dr. Wei Chen**

Title: Characterizing the mechanism by which endogenous negative regulators of osteoclasts control bone homeostasis under physiological and pathological conditions in mouse models  
\$1,633,500 - National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

Title: Cbfb Mediates Articular Cartilage Regeneration And Repair In Aging  
\$2,066,346 - National Institute on Aging

## Research News



The Department of Pathology and Laboratory medicine contributes significantly to the research programs by supporting basic and translational studies

### Department of Pathology annual awards to trainees - April 28, 2021

The Dr. Michael A. Gerber Prize for Research in conjunction with Tulane University School of Medicine's annual Research Days, which was instituted by the late Dr. Gerber, goes to **Niani Bailey, BS, MS**, in recognition of her poster, The Role of DEK Protein in Normal and Autophagy-Deficient Liver. Dr. Bilon Khambu is the PI for this work. [Watch Niani's presentation.](#)

This year the Department's Dr. George H. Hauser Award was given to **Ashley L. Velucci**, a medical student, for her outstanding performance in the course "Mechanism of Diseases", having the highest grade in her class. The award is designed to encourage medical students to excel in the studies of pathology and pathogenesis-related courses. Ashley graduated on May 22, 2021, with Doctor of Medicine, Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine degrees.

### Dr. Savkovic investigates possible link between obesity and colon cancer - April 27, 2021

Congratulations to Dr. Savkovic and her team, who have been awarded a five-year National Cancer Institute grant to continue her investigation on the connection between obesity and colon cancer. Read More...



Suzana Savkovic, Ph.D.  
Associate professor

# Focus on Faculty



In this corner, Tulane faculty members share their experiences, interests and advice for residents and fellows.

**1: When did you come to Tulane and what brought you here?**

1994, beautiful weather, great food, and Tulane Medical School with its greatest Pathology Department

**2: Where did you earn degrees and what are your current responsibilities at Tulane?**

Medical University of Bialystok, Poland

TMTC

**3: What inspired you to follow your chosen path of study and what do you find makes it so interesting?**

Fascination with photography and microscopy; no two individuals and two microscopic images are ever the same (never boring)

**4: What is your greatest accomplishment?**

Training over 100 talented pathology residents and over 20 cytology fellows

**5: Beyond the Tulane campus, I like to ...?**

My wife would say: "getting on my nerves" ... just kidding

My hobbies are broad: fishkeeping, dog walking, biking, and recently the Bitcoin (thanks, John)



**Krzysztof Moroz, M.D.**

Professor, Vice Chair for Clinical Services, Co-Director, Biospecimen Core, LCRC Director, Cytology Laboratory and Cytopathology Fellowship Program, Tulane University School of Medicine

**6: The one experience you will always remember will be ...?**

To be paged by a resident at 2 AM and be told that LOPA frozen is coming at 7 AM (Never lose temper as a physician!)

**7: What did you want to be when you were growing up?**

Always wanted to be a doctor, got it with mother's milk

**8: Favorite book/movie (and why)?**

Knife in the Water (1962) by Roman Polanski

Why? It is a classic. You have to see it.

**9: What advice would you give?**

You don't get what you deserve, you get what you negotiate

**10: What is the most helpful advice you have received?**

Don't rush a difficult case diagnosis on Friday afternoon

# Welcoming New Faculty

With tremendous positive momentum and a future filled with unlimited possibilities for all, despite the challenges associated with the COVID 19 pandemic, our department welcomed eleven new faculty members for the 2021-2022 academic year.

New Faculty Appointments:



**Norah Alghamdi, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor, Clinical Chemistry  
Pathology Department  
School of Medicine



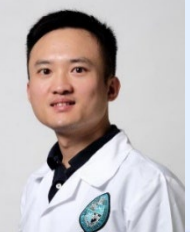
**Yingtao Zhang, MD, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Director, GI and Liver Pathology Services  
Pathology Department  
School of Medicine



**Chiung-Kuei Huang, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Hepatology Research  
Pathology Department  
School of Medicine



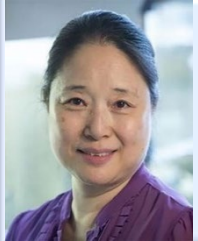
**Liya Pi, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Hepatology Research  
Pathology Department  
School of Medicine



**Shengmin Yan, Ph.D.**  
Instructor  
Pathology Department  
School of Medicine



**David Borzik, MD**  
Assistant Professor, Surgical Pathology & Cytopathology  
Pathology Department  
School of Medicine



**Wei Chen, MD**  
Professor, Cellular & Molecular Medicine  
Pathology Department  
School of Medicine



**Yi-Ping Li, Ph.D.**  
Dean's Endowed Chair Professor. Director, Division in Cellular & Molecular Medicine  
Pathology Department  
School of Medicine



**Bilon Khambu, MSc., Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Pathology Department  
School of Medicine



**Marissa Spencer, MS., PA (ASCP)**  
Instructor, Pathologists' Assistant Program  
Pathology Department  
School of Medicine



**Christina (Tina) O'Grady, Ph.D.**  
Instructor  
Pathology Department  
School of Medicine





## Department Accolades

### AT A GLANCE

#### Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

Total Faculty: 33

Tenure Pathway: 3

Instructor Track: 3

Clinical Faculty: 14

Research Faculty: 17

Research Scientist: 1

#### Medical Research Specialists: 8

Residents: 12

Clinical Fellows: 3

PA Students: 21

Graduate Students: 11

MS Students: 9

Postdoctoral Trainees: 8

Total Grants Awarded  
in 2020-2021: \$4,206,667

- **NCI grant:** October 01, 2021, Dr. Zhen Lin and his colleagues were awarded a National Cancer Institute grant to study the connection between human papillomavirus (HPV) and lung cancer development in HIV positive patients.
- **Top Doctors 2021:** Dr. Shams Halat and Dr. Matthew Stark, were recognized as the 2021 Top Doctors in the category of Pathology by New Orleans Magazine, which is the city magazine published monthly about the city. The selection of Top Doctors is organized by Castle Connolly, a leading healthcare research company, which has done the selection for the past 25 years across the country for many local communities. This year 79 Tulane physicians are among those selected in New Orleans. Additional information can be found [here](#).
- Congratulations to Sarah Garner for being selected as one of the 2021 the Digital Communications Fellows in Pathology on August 6, 2021
- Congratulations to Dr. Di Tian and Dr. Xiao-Ming Yin in being named a City Business Health Care Hero 2021 in the category of Professionals. June 30, 2021
- **Owl Club Award:** Dr. Ryan Craig received a Tulane University School of Medicine Owl Club Award for teaching excellence as a T2 Tutorial Facilitator. Dr. Craig's teaching involved image exam reviews of microscopic slides. Additionally, Dr. Craig taught Basic Science Projects that exposed students to the analysis of scientific literature as it applied to Pathology.
- **Owl Club Award:** Sarah Garner, M.S., P.A. received Tulane University School of Medicine Owl Club Award. Based on highest average review score for T1 Lecturers for her Gross Anatomy lecture series, Lower Extremities.

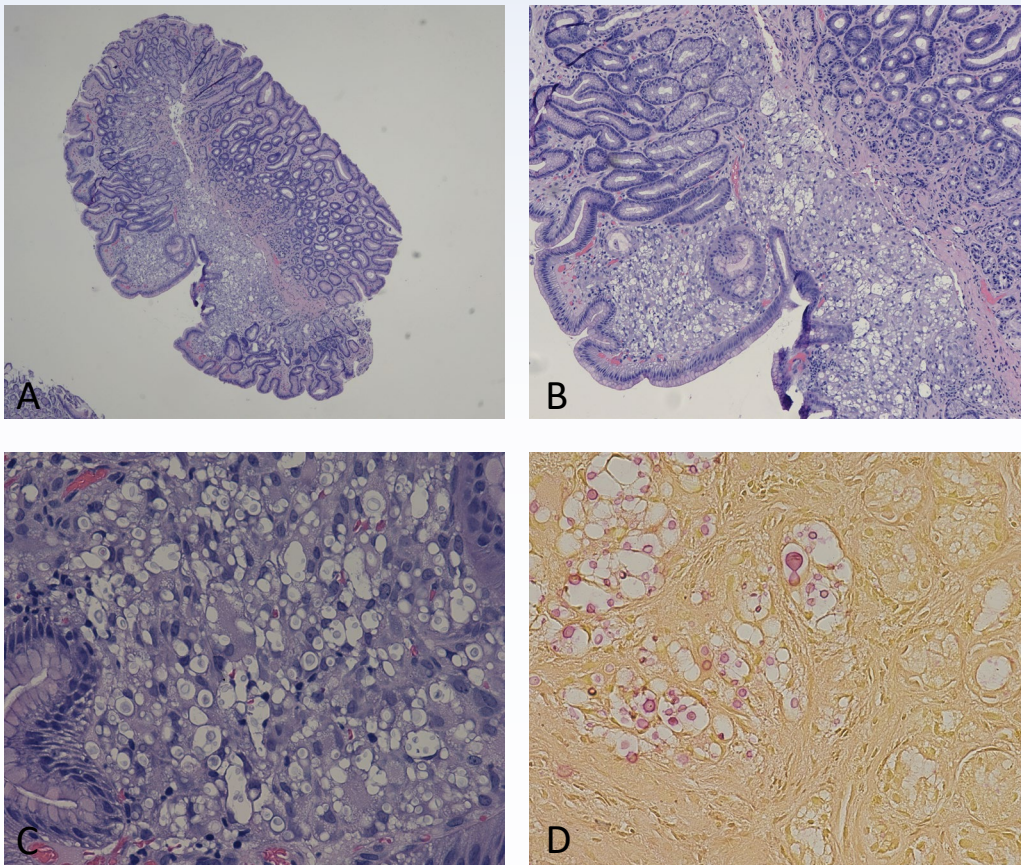
# Case of the Month

## CLINICAL HISTORY

This is a stomach biopsy from a 46-year-old male with one year history of cough and increasing fatigue with recent onset of facial skin lesions. The patient was found to be HIV positive with a CD4 count of 0.1. Endoscopy was performed to evaluate for GI bleed and found stomach ulceration, which was biopsied and is pictured below.

## MICROSCOPIC FINDINGS

A: H&E of stomach at 4x; B: H&E of stomach at 10x; C: H&E of stomach at 40x; D: Mucicarmine stain of stomach at 40x



**WHAT IS YOUR DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS?** *(The answer can be found on page 14)*

- a. Gastric lipidosis
- b. Lymphangectasia
- c. Histoplasma infection
- d. Cryptococcal infection
- e. Signet ring carcinoma of the stomach

# Annual Department Pumpkin Carving Contest And Potluck



The Department of Pathology hosted its annual pumpkin carving contest for Halloween on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Prizes were awarded to the top three submissions. Congratulations Bea on winning the First Prize in the pumpkin carving contest



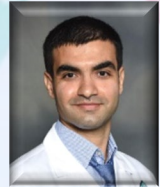
**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR DEPARTMENT  
WHO WELCOMED BABIES IN RECENT MONTHS!**



On April 12<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Amber Souers (MD, PGY IV) and Jacob Souers welcomed Olivia Lynn Souers into the world.  
Congratulations Amber!



On September 29<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Younes Aljohmani (MD, PGY II) and Deana Ali-Hamad welcomed Yasser Aljohmani into the world.  
Congratulations Younes!



**KUDOS FOR A COLLEAGUE**



We are all so lucky to have you as a colleague.

Beatris DeLucca  
Sr. Program Coordinator



**JOKE OF THE MONTH**

Q: How can you tell when pathologists are extroverts?

A: When talking to you, they are looking at YOUR shoes instead of their own.





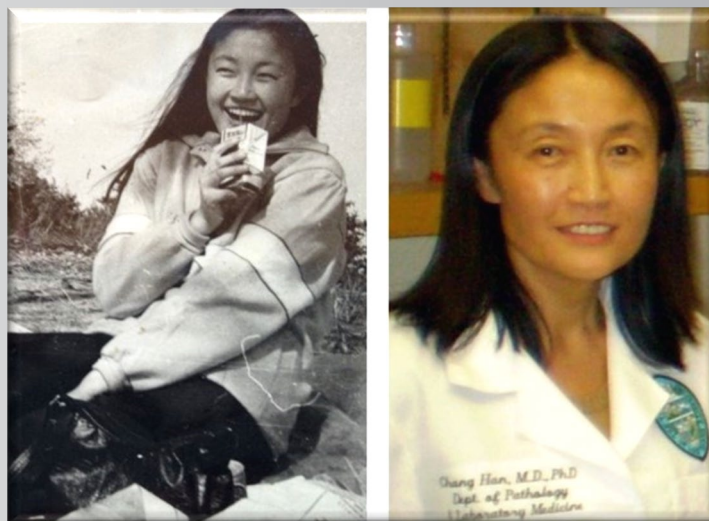
## IN MEMORIAM

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine mourns the loss of one of its Associate Professors, Dr. Chang Han who passed away in September 26, 2021 at the age of 58 after a valiant battle with cancer. Dr. Han was a beloved, esteemed and admired professor regarded for her knowledge and teaching ability and mentorship. She moved to the United States from China with her husband and daughter in 1998. Dr. Han joined the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine in December 2009. Her research had been in the field of liver diseases. She was well known for her diligence, kindness and willingness to help others.

Click [here](#) to view Dr. Han's obituary.

The family of Dr. Han has decided not to hold a formal funeral service here in New Orleans. Instead, the family asks for donations to the Tulane Cancer Center in honor of Dr. Han. Donations can be made either by a check payable to the Tulane Cancer Center, or using a credit card by visiting the Cancer Center's website ([www.canceriscurable.com](http://www.canceriscurable.com)). Select "Giving" in the menu options and choose the Tulane Cancer Center Research Fund. Please indicate that your donation is made in Dr. Han's memory.

Checks should be mailed to: Tulane Cancer Center, 1430 Tulane Avenue, Box 8668, New Orleans, LA. 70112. ATTN: K. Green



**Dr. Chang Han**

JUNE 11, 1963 – SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

Case of the month answer: D: Cryptococcal infection

## Upcoming Events

### AAPA Town Hall meeting; 11/16/2021, 7:00 – 8:30 pm CST

Sarah Garner, MS, PA(ASCP) is the AAPA Advocacy Committee Chair and will be co-hosting the meeting. Click [here](#) for more information.

### Pathology Grand Rounds, 12:00 PM

11/05/21	Nicholas Milligan, M.D.
11/12/21	Muhammad Idrees, MD (Indiana University)
11/19/21	Elizaveta Belyaeva, M.D
11/26/21	HOLIDAY
12/03/21	Shams Halat, M.D.
12/10/21	Akannsha Singh, M.D.
12/17/21	Di. Tian, M.D., Ph.D.
12/24/21	HOLIDAY

**PATHWAYS**

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**TULANE UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL of MEDICINE**

