

# DEPARTMENT of PATHOLOGY

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*To be an international leader in pathology education and research while providing the highest quality of diagnostic service.*



## Message from the Chair

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the inaugural issue of the McGill University Department of Pathology Newsletter. This issue marks the beginning of a new communication channel. Our department is comprised of 60 medical-scientists, 25 residents, and hundreds of support staff, spread geographically across seven hospital sites. Everybody is working hard on a daily basis and many positive outcomes are happening as a result; these need to be communicated. The goal of the newsletter is to increase communication and collaboration across all sites. It will provide updates on the activities in the department, communicate milestones and accomplishments, and the progress of

major initiatives, and share our success stories, awards, and event information. We hope the newsletter will also provide a medium for you to voice your opinions and suggestions, and encourage discussion. I believe these information exchanges will go a long way towards improving our visibility and making our department a vibrant academic place while providing a positive experience for everyone involved. I encourage all of our departmental members, students and Alumni to contribute to the newsletter.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please address them to the Editorial Committee at:

[pathologysupport.med@mcgill.ca](mailto:pathologysupport.med@mcgill.ca)



**Dr. Zu-hua Gao**  
Chair  
McGill Department of Pathology  
MUHC Pathologist-in-Chief

## McGill Pathology Residents Success at Royal College Exams



Left to Right: Dr Myriam Chevarie-Davis, Dr. Jonathan Lachapelle, Dr. Farshid Razaghi



Left to Right: Dr Myriam Chevarie-Davis, Dr. Chantal Bernard, Residency Program Director

Congratulations to our residents, Myriam, Jonathan and Farshid for successfully passing their Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada's exams!

Myriam will pursue a one year Fellowship in Molecular Genetics at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Los Angeles, California. Jonathan will pursue a one year Fellowship in Gastrointestinal Pathology at the Toronto General Hospital (Tri-Hospital Fellowship), Mount Sinai Hospital and Hospital for Sick Kids Toronto, Ontario.

Farshid will pursue a one year Fellowship in Cytopathology at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center Lebanon, New Hampshire.



Left to Right: Dr. Jonathan Epstein, Guest Lecturer, Dr. Zu-hua Gao, Chair, Dr. Edith Zorychta, Graduate Program Director

# Finlayson Research Day

## June 21, 2013



Dr. Morrison H. Finlayson

**Finlayson Day** is held each year by the Department of Pathology, in memory of Dr. Morrison H. Finlayson, who was on the staff at McGill for more than 20 years, as a pathologist at the Montreal General Hospital and an Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology. Dr. Finlayson received his MB, Ch.B from the University of Edinburgh and his residency training in neurology and pathology at the University of Alberta and at McGill. His major re-

search interest was in neuropathology, and he published numerous research articles and case reports in this field. He was also an active member of many scientific associations, and became President of the Canadian Association of Neuropathologists and Vice-President of the International Society of Neuropathology.

For many years Dr. Finlayson was also the Director of the McGill Residency Training Program in Pathology, and it is in this role that he is remembered with particular affection. His concerns for the quality of education and for the well being of each individual during the period of his or her training were deeply appreciated. For these reasons, the Department of Pathology

holds an annual day in his honor. Following a special lecture by an invited speaker from outside of the University, brief research presentations are given by members currently enrolled in Residency Training and in the Graduate Studies Program. A prize is awarded for the best short presentation in each category, but the main goal is to provide a relaxed forum for the exchange of ideas between current members of the department who are investigating a wide range of different topics, and often work in separate geographical locations within the university hospital complex. This interaction is further encouraged by the subsequent social events held in a very congenial environment.



Dr. Jonathan Epstein

Reinhard Professor of Urologic Pathology  
Professor, Departments of Urologic Pathology, Urology & Oncology  
Director of Surgical Pathology  
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

## Finlayson Memorial Lecture: Active Surveillance for Men with Newly Diagnosed Prostate Cancer: Critical Role of Pathology



Left to Right: Dr. Jonathan Epstein, Dr. Chantal Bernard, Dr. Fadi Brimo



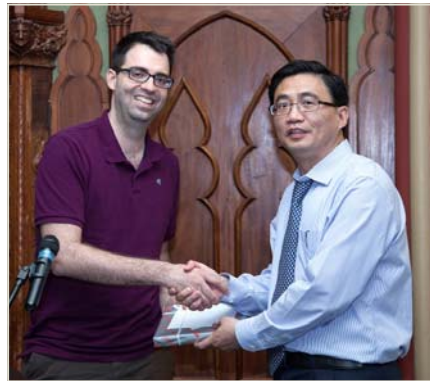
# 2013 Finlayson Research Day Awards



## Teacher of the Year 2012-2013:

**Dr. Fadi Brimo**

Left to Right: Dr. Brimo, Dr Gao



## Resident of the Year 2012-2013:

**Dr. Pierre Fiset**

Left to Right: Dr. Fiset, Dr. Gao

## Resident Teacher of the Year 2012-2013:

**Dr. May Chergui**

Left to Right: Dr. Bernard, Dr. Chergui,  
Dr. Atallah, Dr. Gao



## Best Clinical Research Presentation 2012-2013:

**Dr. Bin Xu**

Left to Right: Dr. Gao, Dr. Xu,  
Dr. Bernard



## Best Experimental Research Presentation 2012-2013:

**Laila Al-Alwan**

Left to Right: Laila Al-Alwan  
Dr. Zorychta, Graduate Program Director



## Clinical and Experimental Research Presentations



**Left to Right:**

**Patrick Logan:** Creating and testing a computer-based quantitation algorithm for immunohistochemistry on rare formalin fixed paraffin embedded specimen samples

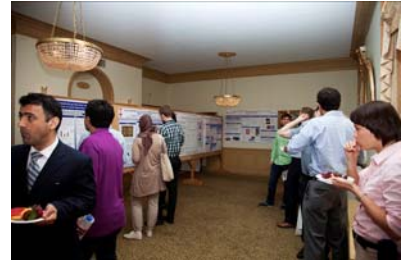
**Bin Xu:** Prospective assessment of c4d immunohistochemistry in cardiac transplant biopsies: a cost-effectiveness analysis

**Samuel Ohayon:** CTCFL/BORIS: The Evil Brother

**Laila Al-Alwan:** Growth-related oncogene (GRO)-a inhibition of airway Smooth muscle cell migration is mediated by the decoy receptor "duffy antigen receptor for chemokines"

**Chantal Atallah:** Rapid development of an undifferentiated intracranial myxoid sarcoma in a glioblastoma patient







# CAP-APQ

June 8-12, 2013  
Quebec City

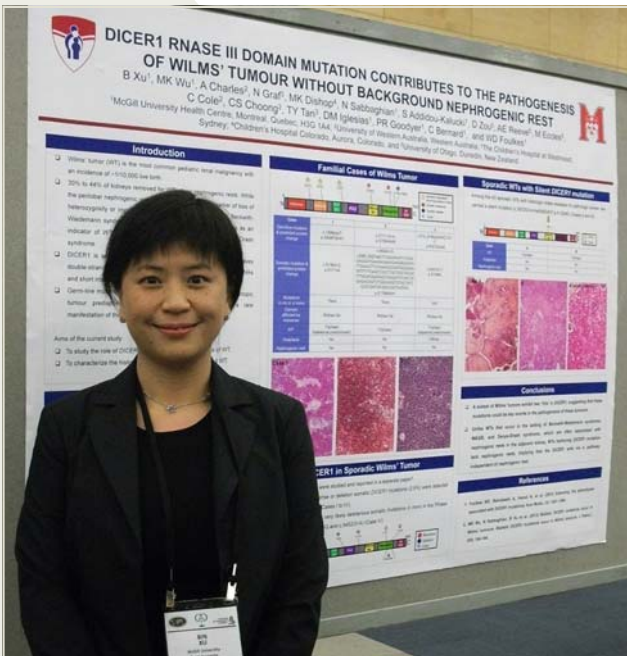
64th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Pathologists held jointly with the 27th World Congress of the World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine



Left to Right: Dr. Amir Salehi, Dr. Hui Jun Wang, Dr. Zohreh Eslami, Dr. Bin Xu

## The APQ-CAP was a real success!

Our residents did an outstanding job. From Juniors to Seniors! We even had two medical students from last year's Unit 8 who prepared a poster with Dr Fu! It is never too early to start! Bin Xu is the awardee of the Canadian Chairs of Pathology Award in experimental pathology for best poster in experimental pathology with her work on DICER 1 RNASE III domain and Wilms tumor.



Dr. Bin Xu, awardee of the Canadian Chairs of Pathology Award in Experimental Pathology for best poster in experimental pathology

## Highlights of the scientific component:

**Dr. Brimo** presented at the AP symposium: "Challenges in the interpretation of urinary bladder biopsies"

**Dr. Auger** presented a symposium on Pulmonary Cytology at the Canadian Society of Cytopathology and Kulcar Lecture: "Blowing new life into diagnostic challenges"

**Dr. Roy** presented an update on the Africa Project Sunday night at the International Pathology Symposium

**Oral presentations from resident: Chelsea Maedler (PGY1):** "Clinical use of laboratory tumor marker CEA in the acute management of patients" (in collaboration with Dr MacManara, biochemistry JGH)

## POSTERS

**Amir H Salehi (PGY4):** "Endosalpingiosis in axillary lymph nodes: a mimic of metastatic breast carcinoma" (Dr. Atinel and Dr. Omeroglu)

**Bin Xu (PGY4):** "Prospective assessment of c4d IHC in cardiac transplant biopsies: a cost-effectiveness analysis" (Dr. Michel, Dr. Watters, Dr. Fraser)

**Chelsea Maedler Kron (PGY1):** "Yolk sac tumor of the uterus: an unusual primary site" (Dr. Arseneau)

**Daniel Jones and Aaron Rosen (Med students unit 8):** "Uterine carcinosarcoma in a BRCA mutation patient with tamoxifen exposure: a case report and literature review" (Dr. Fu)

**Zohreh Eslami (PGY4):** "Perplexing double expression of napsin A and Ttf-1 in ovarian tumor of a 27 year old : a diagnostic pit-fall" (Dr. Fu, Dr. Jung)

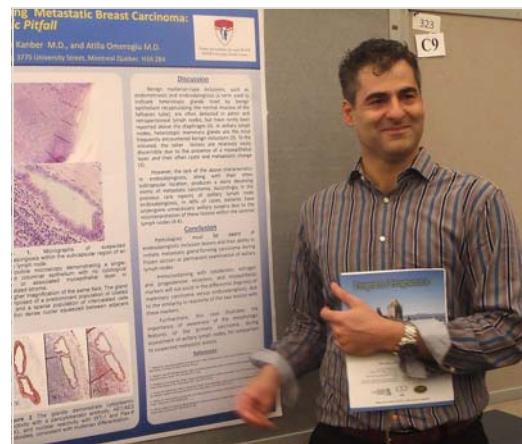
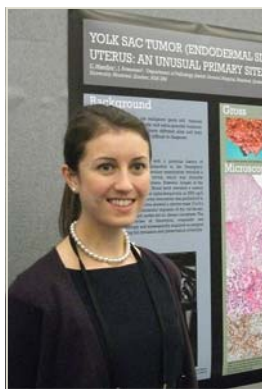
**Bin Xu (PGY4):** "Dicer1 RNASE III domain mutation contributes to the pathogenesis of Wilms tumor without background nephrogenic rest" (Dr. Foulkes et coll from genetics; Dr. Bernard)

**Livia Florianova (PGY1), Chantal Atallah (PGY3), PO Fiset (PGY3):** "Rapid development of an undifferentiated intracranial myxoid sarcoma in a glioblastoma patient treated with chemotherapy" (Dr.Nahal, Dr. Guio)

**Chantal Atallah (PGY3):** "Relics and remains: Wyatt Galt Johnston and the Maude Abbott Medical Museum" (Dr. Fraser, J. O'Malley)

**Michele Charbonneau (RT):** "Subcategorization of "atypia of undetermined significance" cases in thyroid FNA: malignancy rates on histologic follow up" (Dr. Caglar, Dr. Auger).

We are very proud of our residents. Thank you to everyone who supervised and guided their work!



64th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Pathologists in Quebec City, June 8-12, 2013

## Residency Program Accreditation by the Royal College

The Department's Residency Program received full accreditation status from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, following a visit in March of this year. The surveyors were impressed with the academic curriculum, our outstanding program director, Dr. Chantal Bernard, the diversity of expertise and dedication of the academic faculty members, and the collegial environment and commitment to educational excellence.

## Faculty Recruitment Update

We are in the process of recruiting one full-time Associate Professor (Clinical) and five full-time Assistant Professors (Clinical) to the McGill University Department of Pathology:

**Dr. Sophie Camilleri-Broët** has an MD in Pathology and a PhD in Neurosciences, both from University Paris VI. She currently oversees Gastrointestinal Pathology at the Hôpital Européen Georges Pompidou and has additional expertise in Thoracic pathology. She will be joining the RVH team in the summer of 2014.

**Dr. Myriam Chevarie-Davis** has completed her training in Anatomic Pathology within the McGill University Department of Pathology training system. She will complete a one-year Fellowship in Molecular Genetics Pathology at Cedars-Sinai Center in California before joining the MGH team in July of 2014.

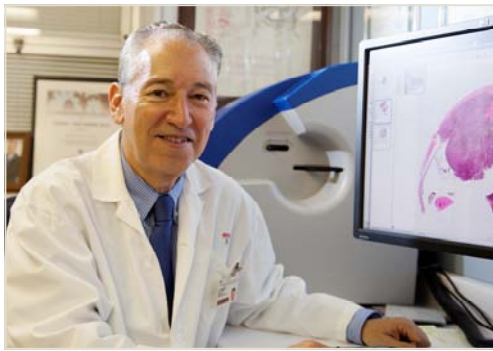
**Dr. Amal Fadaili** has completed a Fellowship in Surgical Pathology with an emphasis on Gynecological and Gastrointestinal Pathology at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School in Boston. Her dossier is currently awaiting approval by the Agence.

**Dr. Bin Xu** is currently a resident in the Department of Pathology at McGill University. Upon completion of her residency, she will be starting a fellowship in Oncologic Surgical Pathology with an emphasis on Head and Neck Pathology at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York and will be joining the JGH team in July 2015.

**Dr. Mona Alam-Fahmy** has recently completed a Fellowship in Gastrointestinal and Liver Pathology at Western University in London Ontario, and will be joining the JGH team this September.

**Dr. Hangjun Wang** has completed two Fellowships at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre in New York, one in Oncological Surgical Pathology, and one in Thoracic Pathology. She joined the JGH team in July 2013.





## EYE on Dr. Miguel N. Burnier

Our esteemed colleague, Dr. Miguel Burnier, was recently featured in *EYE CONTACT*, where he reflects on his experiences and research training in pathology and ophthalmology while working at the NIH before joining McGill University in 1993. Dr. Burnier is Director of the Henry C. Witelson Ocular Pathology Laboratory located in the Duff Medical Building. This renowned multi-

disciplinary laboratory is the largest research and training facility in ocular pathology in North America, and focuses on establishing the underlying mechanisms of ocular diseases. It currently hosts a total of 15 clinicians and researchers from around the globe; including three clinical fellows, four post-docs, and five Ph.D., master's and medical students. Presently, the main areas of research include the immunohistochemistry of intraocular tumors and the molecular pathways involved in retinoblastoma, uveal melanoma, and age-related macular degeneration. The ultimate goal of the laboratory is to take these research discoveries and provide new clinical treatment options for patients who suffer from these life-shattering diseases. For more information, please follow this link to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Eye Institute's (NEI/NIH) website <http://www.nei.nih.gov/>

**The Montreal Gazette** recently assembled a panel of experts to identify 50 objects that tell the story of Montreal. Included in the list published on Saturday, May 11, 2013 is a box of microscopic slides (Number 28 on the list). The Gazette reports: "For more than 2,000 years medicine was based on a theory called humourism, which stated that sickness was representative of an imbalance within the body. Sir William Osler helped change this perspective. Upon graduating from medical school at McGill University in 1872, he travelled to Europe and received training in the use of the microscope. Two years later, Osler returned to McGill and began teaching a course on cellular pathology. The class learned how to make their own microscopic specimens. In 1877, student Fredrick S. Greenwood fashioned this carrying case, measuring 8 x 4 x 3 inches, containing 12 trays of 56 slides." The box was found by Dr. Richard Fraser in 2001 at the MGH. The slides were scanned, and along with their history, presented in a virtual exhibit, "William Osler & the Teaching of Microscopy at McGill" available on the Osler Library website at <http://www.mcgill.ca/library/library-findinfo/subjects/health/history-medicine/oslerexhibits>



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**The 18th International Congress of Cytology** took place May 26-30 in Paris, France. Among the 1200 delegates and 200 exhibitors from over 80 countries who gathered at this year's scientific event, Drs. Yonca Kanber and Manon Auger and MUHC cytotechnologist Mrs. Michele Charbonneau presented two e-posters titled "*Rapid Prescreening of Pap smears: Follow-Up Findings On False-Negative Cases*" (and

*"Histologic follow-up findings of endometrial cells in Pap smears: An institutional experience"*). Dr. Auger also gave a workshop session titled "*Cytomorphology: a history of cytology and its importance for cancer research*".

Also presented at this year's edition was an e-poster titled "*Do liquid-based preparations of pulmonary bronchial brushing specimens perform differently from classically prepared cases? Observations from the College of American Pathologists Nongynecologic cytology*

## PATHOLOGY SCIENTIFIC LECTURE SERIES

Sponsored by:



### Past Lectures

#### February 6

Dr. Peter Metrakos "Management of Colon Cancer Liver Metastasis: State of the Art"

#### March 27

Dr. Miguel Burnier "The Ocular Pathology Program: Clinical Care, Training & Research"

#### April 25

Dr. Carolyn Baglolle "Bringing new biological components to COPD pathogenesis: *The emerging story of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor*"

### Upcoming lecture

Dr. Wedad Hanna  
Wednesday, October 16, 2013  
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Duff Medical Building, Room 112  
3775 University St

*interlaboratory comparison program*" by Z. Laura Tabatabai, Daniel F. Kurtycz, Walid E. Khalbuss, Rodolfo Laucirica, Manon Auger, Rhona Souers, Ann T. Moriarty, Ritu Nayar, Mostafa Fraig.

## United States and Canada Academy of Pathology

Our Department will be filmed by USCAP this summer and the film will be broadcast at the 2014 USCAP Annual meeting in San Diego. Special thanks to Dr. Joseph Shuster and Mr. Ron Collett from the Montreal General Hospital Foundation for providing financial support to this unique opportunity.





## Hats off!



**Laura Fiorita** will be retiring from McGill University on August 30, 2013. Laura started working at McGill in 1976 and except for working three years in the Department of Psychiatry has spent the last 34 years in the Department of Pathology. She was secretary to six Chairs: Dr. John Richardson, Dr. Sean Moore, Dr. René Michel, Dr. Carolyn Compton, Dr. David Haegert and Dr. Zu-Hua Gao. Although she worked in the Chair's Office at the Duff Medical Building, she had many interactions with the academic and support staff at the MUHC hospitals, as well as the JGH and St. Mary's. Laura plans on taking classes and doing volunteer work.



**Mira Hoffmann** retired May 1, 2013. She started working at McGill in 1978. She was Student Affairs Coordinator, responsible for undergraduate and post-graduate medical students, graduate studies, and fellowships, and coordinator of the McGill Residency Program. Her retirement plans include skiing, hiking, traveling, and seeing her grandchildren more often.



**Cecile Williams** will be retiring from McGill University on August 30, 2013. She has been working at McGill for 37 years, for the first 27 years in the Department of Pathology in the Lyman Duff Medical Building and then at the Montreal Neurological Institute in the Department of Neuropathology. She was Lab Supervisor for the last 13 years. She was a member of the Montreal Neurological Institute choir and took part in the activities of the Reitman's Luncheon every Christmas, which celebrated its 65th anniversary in 2012. She relates "I am fortunate to consider my colleagues as one big happy family. I will miss everyone and miss my home away from home but, finally, I'll have the time to put together all the photos taken over the years!" She plans on traveling and her first trip will be to Dubai in October.



**Dr. Manon Auger** has been offered a two-year appointment to the Editorial Advisory Board of *Cancer Cytopathology*, a peer-reviewed journal published by the American Cancer Society. Dr. Auger was offered this position due to her "exemplary qualifications in the field of cytopathology and outstanding reviewer history for the journal". As one of ten Editorial Advisory Board members, Dr. Auger will serve as an ambassador for the journal and will be instrumental in helping the Editor-in-Chief identify papers that fit the mission and scope of the publication and its readership.



**Patrick Logan** successfully defended his PhD in Pathology on May 21, 2013. His thesis, entitled "Vascular endothelial growth factor-A expression and role in uveal melanoma", focused on targeting angiogenic factors to prevent uveal melanoma tumor growth in vitro, as well as looking at expression profiles of these factors in human samples and in animal models of this disease. Currently, Patrick is continuing his work as a post-doc in the Henry C. Witelson Ocular Pathology Laboratory, where he is pursuing novel, targeted drug delivery models for treating ocular tumors. Patrick is also acting Treasurer of the Montreal node of Emerging Health Leaders, which provides a forum for open, collaborative, and constructive dialogue on timely national health issues.

**Do you have a news story?** The McGill Department of Pathology Newsletter is published four times a year (July, October, January, and April). It is available by email and on the Department webpage at <http://www.mcgill.ca/pathology/newsletter>



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If you would like to submit an article or receive the newsletter by email, please contact the Department at [pathologysupport.med@mcgill.ca](mailto:pathologysupport.med@mcgill.ca)  
**Deadline for submissions to the Fall issue is September 13th, 2013**