

The



Bulletin

**President's Message—Tucker Collins**

I am delighted to be writing this greeting to the membership of the American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP). On July 1, I began a year long term as President of the Society, after serving on Council as President-Elect under the leadership of Past President, Mark Sobel, National Institutes of Health.

Experimental pathology continues to attract both basic scientists and clinician-scientists from multiple disciplines and specialty areas, in both academic and industrial settings. Although our backgrounds are diverse, we share an interest in the mechanisms of disease. ASIP provides a locus for the dissemination of information concerning the pathogenesis of disease and is unique in its ability to provide a network for communication and representation of the interests of this diverse community. Since taking office last summer, I have monitored the following issues of interest to the Society:

**ASIP Senior Executive Director.** As you know, Dr. Frances Pitlick, ASIP Executive Officer for 12 years, has decided to step down, effective upon appointment of a successor. We are pleased that she is committed to continuing to provide Executive Officer and staff support for our activities while planning for a smooth transition for a successor. As President, I have organized and am Chair of a national Search Committee that includes members from ASIP Council, as well as

representatives from the Association of Molecular Pathology (AMP), the Association of Pathology Chairs (APC), and Universities Associated for Research and Education in Pathology (UAREP). The Committee has placed advertisements for the position in appropriate national publications and has obtained names of interested parties. In the early fall, the Search Committee will meet with a few of the prospective candidates and make a recommendation to ASIP Council. We expect that there will be a smooth transition in early 2001 from the stewardship of Dr. Pitlick to the new Senior Executive Director.

**Publications.** Our publications continue to be a source of great strength for the Society. A transition in leadership is taking place at *AJP*. As of July 1, new submissions to the journal are being handled by James Madara, Professor and Chairman of Pathology, Emory University, who succeeded Nelson Fausto, Professor and Chairman of Pathology,

University of Washington, as Editor-In-Chief. Dr. Madara selected Charles Parkos, as Senior Associate Editor, and a strong group of Associate Editors to assist with the dispensation of manuscripts. I am sure you will join me in thanking Dr. Fausto for his outstanding leadership during his distinguished tenure as Editor-In-Chief. Additionally, we should acknowledge Steven Kunkel, University of Michigan, for his many contributions as Senior Editor. Special thanks to Priscilla Markwood, Managing Editor, and Sandy Wolman, Chair of the Publications Committee, for their expert assistance

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**Abstract Submission Deadline: November 6, 2000**  
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with the operational transition. *AJP* is looking to the future and has made the transition to “on-line” or electronic publishing at [www.amjpathol.org](http://www.amjpathol.org). I feel confident that *AJP* will meet the challenges of the transition and make rapid initial decisions on articles and continue to have the highest impact factor in the discipline.

Under the leadership of Senior Editor Karen Kaul, Evanston Hospital, *The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics (JMD)* is developing rapidly as a high quality forum for researchers working on molecular applications to clinical diagnostic issues. Subscriptions and submissions to *JMD*, ASIP’s joint venture with the Association for Molecular Pathology, are increasing and revenue generated from advertising has been quite strong. *JMD* is now in the process of applying for recognition by the *National Library of Medicine* to be indexed in the Library’s *Index Medicus*. The ASIP/AMP Joint Journal Oversight Committee (Sandra Wolman, Linda McManus, Catherine Leiendecker-Foster, Jeffrey Kant, Nelson Fausto, Karen Kaul, and Priscilla Markwood) has generated a strong proposal for NLM’s consideration and emphasizes the close cooperation between *AJP* and *JMD*. We anticipate the *JMD* will be on-line late in the Fall of this year.

*The ASIP Bulletin* launched by Bruce McManus, St. Paul’s Hospital, Vancouver, is now under the capable direction of Alessandra Bini, New York Blood Center. The *Bulletin* will continue to feature articles from the Executive Officer and Committee Reports outlining the activities of the Society. In new sections, the *Bulletin* has interviews with distinguished pathologists in the “Profiles in Pathology” section, and short updates on the activities of the membership in the “News & Notes” commentary. These features have added a more personal note to the *Bulletin* and have been well received by the membership.

**Accomplishments and Initiatives.** Representatives from the ASIP have provided leadership in some key issues effecting the membership. Some of the Society’s accomplishments are outlined below:

- Public attention has focused on errors in health care delivery, resulting in increased pressure for evidence of physician’s competence. ASIP is one of the cooperating societies to the American Board of Pathology (ABP). Past President, Mark Sobel, met with the trustees of the Board to discuss issues related to training and certification in pathology. With input from ASIP, the ABP is developing a program of re-certification that protects the interests of our members as well as the public.
- ASIP provides input into important issues that affect our ability to do research. Our Society is well represented on the FASEB Public Affairs Committee by Richard Lynch, University of Iowa, and Carl Becker, Medical College of Wisconsin, our new representative to FASEB’s Science Policy Committee. Key issues facing the Committee include stem cell research, human subject protection and oversight of IRB’s, as well as responses to the recent proposals made by the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) for vastly increasing the instruction in the responsible conduct of research. Additionally, the Society is proud to co-sponsor initiatives by other FASEB Societies on how to present the importance of science to the public.
- FASEB convenes a consensus conference to discuss research funding supported by various federal agencies. This conference provides well-reasoned assessments on federal funding levels for the upcoming fiscal year and recommends changes in policy or focus. We are fortunate that Dr. Fred Sanfilippo, Dean, College of Medicine and Public Health, Ohio State University, has chaired the NIH Committee and Dr. Peter Ward, Chairman of Pathology, University of Michigan, chairs the VA Committee.
- The Society is constantly evaluating where the field of pathology is going, what its needs will be, and how new technology can be used to address important diagnostic issues. In the past, representatives from the Society, under the leadership of Steve Galli, Stanford University School of Medicine, have met with the Directors of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the

*Continued on page 3*

National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to discuss initiatives of interest to pathologists. We will continue to look for opportunities for members of our Society to discuss topics of interest to pathologists with the NIH leadership.

- ASIP is providing input into the composition of NIH Study Sections. Working directly with several NIH Study Sections, ASIP is providing suggestions to SRA's for Charter members.
- ASIP is committed to expanding the community of experimental pathologists in a way that fosters collegiality. ASIP has established an Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity that includes representatives from ASIP Council and Career Development and Program Committees to encourage the career development of women and minorities. We hope to develop programs that reach out to a more diverse group of investigators.

**Annual Meeting.** The upcoming ASIP annual meeting will be held in Orlando from March 31 through April 4 as part of Experimental Biology. This year the meeting will be with AAI, ASBMB, APS, as well as ASPET, AAA and ASNS; in total, there will be over 30 professional societies participating in this meeting. Our Program Committee, under the leadership of William Muller, Cornell University, has developed an exciting program of symposia, mini-symposia and workshops ([asip.uthscsa.edu/ANNMEET\\_COURSE/pr\\_eb01.html](http://asip.uthscsa.edu/ANNMEET_COURSE/pr_eb01.html)). Additionally, there will be instructional sessions for graduate students and presentations by recipients of meritorious awards. Deadlines for abstracts to the 2001 Annual Meeting are fast approaching. Abstracts are due **November 6, 2000** and **must be submitted electronically**; printed announcements and the web site for electronic submission ([www.miracd.com/eb2001/](http://www.miracd.com/eb2001/)) were provided in mid-September. Further information about ASIP membership and the meeting is available on our website [asip.uthscsa.edu/](http://asip.uthscsa.edu/) or from the Executive Office (301-530-7130). Additionally, you should have already received information about our society's meritorious awards for the coming year (also available at

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## ➤➤ MOVING INTO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY ◀◀ ELECTRONIC ABSTRACTS FOR EB 2001

This year, all abstracts for Experimental Biology will be submitted on line using a sophisticated, web-based program. The electronic submission process should be easier and more intuitive than it has been in the past and the product will be a completely searchable on-line set of abstracts, available for building your personal meeting schedule prior to the meeting.

Features of the system:

- Allows submission of multiple abstracts from the same author
- Allows submission and holding of draft abstracts
- Drop-down topic category menu for ASIP and for most topic categories
- Accepts MS Word and WordPerfect formatted files as uploads and converts fonts to standardized format
- Accepts many scientific symbols; provides drop-down menus for those that need special coding
- Accepts images as part of abstract body

*And, best of all*

Displays the abstract as it will be printed before submission is completed

With all of the abstracts in a digital format, they are readily amenable to posting on the web and this will allow meeting participants to build their own meeting schedule upon a better information base. And, it is possible that in future years those heavy printed abstract books will disappear in favor of a CD ROM - something that is easy to mail ahead of time or distribute at the meeting.

**DEADLINE:**

**MONDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2000**

**EB 2001 INFORMATION:**

[www.faseb.org/meetings/eb2001/](http://www.faseb.org/meetings/eb2001/)

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION SITE:**

[www.miracd.com/eb2001/](http://www.miracd.com/eb2001/)

**ASIP MEETING INFORMATION:**

[asip.uthscsa.edu/ANNMEET\\_COURSE/meetasip.html](http://asip.uthscsa.edu/ANNMEET_COURSE/meetasip.html)

*Frances A. Pitlick, Executive Officer*

[asip.uthscsa.edu/new/nomin\\_awd.html](http://asip.uthscsa.edu/new/nomin_awd.html)). Our society has a distinguished membership and I would encourage everyone to participate in the nomination process. I am looking forward to seeing the membership and participating in an outstanding meeting.

In summary, I find that ASIP is doing well and has significant strengths. However, we must meet the challenges of transition as we move ahead. I would welcome your comments and suggestions as to how ASIP could improve its service to the membership.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### *Membership Committee*

*Bruce McManus, Chair*

#### ***Diversity and Duplication: Is Virtue Lurking in So, So, So Many Pathology Organizations and Societies?***



When we are born, we typically become part of a family. We associate with family members, initially because we have no choice and they are our protectors and saviors, and as time goes by, because we come to understand the meaning of be-

ing in a certain family with its heritage, its values, its aspirations, its goals, and its achievements. There are many different types of families; big ones, little ones, good ones, bad ones, rich ones, poor ones, and so on. But all of those family units are part of a larger sociological milieu; the community, the region, the country they live in, and they share the language, the culture, the religious beliefs, the politics of their neighbors and friends. The association of people with other people by personal necessity, by personal obligation, or by desire is at once informal and spontaneous, and at the same time, couched in constitutions, bylaws, formalities, economies, ethics and legalities. In this cacophony of informal and formal associations, we play out our lives and societies making more or less progress. In a most striking example of the wide range of developments, one needs to go no further than the origins of human societies. In theory, societies all began with nearly nothing, and through the randomness and chaos of events, certain societies became fully developed, some still developing and some have never developed. This “evolutionary” diversity in rates of societal

development is of great interest to cultural anthropologists.

The origin and evolution of professional organizations, societies, and boards can be reasonably compared to the development of families, cultural subgroups, and ethnic lineages. Such a broad and imperfect analogy can be drawn for biomedical, scientific and health organizations. The process of organizational creation, emergence, maturation, withering, dying or reinvention, like cycles of our lives, is intriguing and instructive. There is certainly no “correct” number of organizations for a given discipline. Organizations usually develop to meet a real or perceived unmet need. We will them to originate. We do it intentionally. But like families, the original purpose may not be known to subsequent generations, nor may people come into organizations or families understanding why they are associated with one group and not another. Certainly, there are many clear-headed reasons for belonging to disciplinary organizations – mutual interests, values, benefits, etc., but we also belong at times through blind commitment to structure, to the security of belonging somewhere, or perhaps in response to an advertisement or the call of a membership committee member. The main question I raise here is - what strengths and what weaknesses do the myriad of pathology organizations, societies and boards convey to those who would call themselves pathologists, laboratory physicians and/or scientists, and pathobiologists? So, do we need all of these organizations? Why don't a number of similar organizations “throw in together”? Why do we create new organizations rather than embracing the emerging need (eg. computers, informatics, molecular, etc.) within the fabric of established organizations? Why do we divide instead of mutate? Why do we have so many organizations for so few professionals, wherein

most members of one organization within the same discipline are likely members in five other similar organizations with similar goals and mandates? How do we go from training that is incredibly similar to clusters of professionals who find little synergy or commonness? Or is this true?

What would become of the strengths embedded in diversity of pathology organizations? Well, more organizations means allowing more in depth focus for groups with the most common interests and needs. Smaller groups are more apt to offer a personalized environment for learning and creativity. Organizations that represent smaller subsets of the discipline may accommodate the need for change or inclusion of new information, technologies, or approaches in a given defined field of interest. Such organizations may be able to interact more effectively with subspecialty groups in other disciplines of direct relevance (eg. nephropathologists and nephrologists). And, in theory, participation may be more easily encouraged and gained in smaller more focused organizations.

But what about limitations or weaknesses inherent to too many organizations? As I have noted, many people are members of multiple similar organizations and thus have repeated “calls” on their time, expertise, and goodwill, and they have markedly increased membership dues, travel and lodging expenditures, and time away from family. There is a lack of concerted and coordinated political power and influence in a very dynamic and tumultuous health care environment, one that requires a clear voice. It is easy to attribute a number of woes of pathology and laboratory medicine as a discipline to fracture political will – think about the loss of revenue, loss of curricular identity, loss of residency training slots, loss of leadership in molecular phenotyping, etc. Would a better, stronger, harmonious message have changed the course of events over the last decade? What role do organizations have in such day-to-day interplay internal to health sciences institutions? Another concern related to the chaos of organizational multiplicity is the creation (at times unknowingly) of cliques which impair rather than promote progress in knowledge generation and

translation into practice, especially in a rapidly moving technological world where clarity of vision and speed of implementation are essential for survival. Finally, it is likely that organizational blebbing leads to groups that may not be able to see the “big picture” into which they must fit to be most effective or valuable.

One can understand the need for human pathology organizations and those devoted to invertebrates, to pathogens, or to plants. One can appreciate the distinct focus of certifying and licensing bodies, accreditation and standardization organizations, administrative associations, and academic societies. But so many!!!! At 50 major entities in the United States alone, a number with international underpinnings, and many with similar stated purposes. We have an umbrella organization to foster dialogue and actions of common purpose between the diverse groups, but much like the United Nations, intent is lost in the diffusion into cross-purpose, duplicity, and confusion born of unfamiliarity.

To the extreme credit of a number of leaders in pathology organizations, societies and boards, the dialogue is intensifying and the need for a change is widely perceived. Proximity, synergy, and economies of effort are being visited upon with greater seriousness perhaps than in years gone by. The dialogue should become the subject of a forum that includes not only a few leaders within each of the discussant organizations, but also the broader community of pathologists. Such a discussion, held transparently enough, would lay the heritage, the current challenges and opportunities, and the future wide open for revision and redefinition. In the event that nothing should change after such a “coming out,” at least we would all know why we chose to sponsor and commit to so many organizational personalities. The schizophrenia would be explained.

Responses to this brief polemic would be most welcome.

## *Program Committee*

*William A. Muller, Chair*

The Program Committee has been busy organizing the upcoming meeting. I believe the annual meeting should be like the New York City Marathon. There should be some elite scientists, representing a variety of disciplines of interest to our membership, who will guarantee that the most exciting and important discoveries are discussed. However, most of the participants should be ASIP members discussing their own data with colleagues in forums that facilitate the exchange of ideas. The meeting is, after all, for the membership. We would appreciate hearing from you with ideas for scientific sessions and any other ideas that would help us organize a meeting that would serve the diverse interests of the experimental pathology community.

We have initiated several new platforms for scientific exchange in addition to the standard symposia, mini-symposia, and poster sessions. These include "retreats"--special interest sessions where investigators interested in a specific topic convene informally, "focus groups"--for the discussion of particularly "hot" or controversial topics. (Focus groups are meant to draw investigators from other societies as well as ASIP), and "poster discussion groups" in which a series of related posters are presented in a separate room to allow for intense discussion and exchange of ideas. We also are sponsoring a number of special sessions for trainees, including workshops for career opportunities and sessions devoted to highlighting graduate student and postdoctoral fellows' research. Our goal is to organize a meeting which ALL of our membership will want to attend. If you have not attended the ASIP meetings in the past, please let us know how we can make these meetings serve you better. We are particularly committed to increasing the presence and participation of women and minority members. The Program Committee looks forward to hearing your views, and to making each annual meeting even more successful than the last.

See previous *Bulletin* (July 2000) for topic categories or refer to [asip.uthscsa.edu/ANNMEET\\_COURSE/eb01\\_topics.html](http://asip.uthscsa.edu/ANNMEET_COURSE/eb01_topics.html)

## *Committee on Women, Minorities and Career Development*

*Nancy Thompson, Chair*



*Susan Heffelfinger, Elizabeth Unger and Nancy Thompson*

As incoming chair, I want to take this opportunity to thank past chair Sue Heffelfinger for agreeing to remain on the committee to assure a smooth transition and continuity. Thanks as well to the other enthusiastic members: Elaine Bearer, Joan Berman, John Kemp, Jeanie McMillin, Gary Pasternack, Maryalice Stetler-Stevenson and Elizabeth Unger for taking up the challenges before us. Our works in progress include planning the EB '01 Workshop whose theme will be training graduate students in genomics/proteomics/laser capture with special emphasis on the role of histopathology/microanatomy. Nancy and Elaine are chairing this session, which will be held Sunday, April 1, 9-11 AM in Room 2. Note the welcome change from the past Saturday morning timeslot. We have early indications of corporate sponsorship and expect to have top speakers and follow up with a discussion period.

Other committee efforts are directed toward increasing participation of women, minorities, PhD members and trainees in the society. We are very excited about the first annual networking/mentoring luncheon for women and minorities. This event is planned to feature a keynote speaker and is chaired by Jeanie McMillin and Mary Alice Stetler-Stevenson. More details will be forthcoming in a future issue.

## Nominating Committee

Mark E. Sobel, Chair

### **TIRED OF HEARING ABOUT BUSH AND GORE? HAVE WE GOT A DEAL FOR YOU!**

The ASIP Nominating Committee is the democratic base of the organization. It is responsible for selecting nominees for all elected positions of the society, including Vice President-elect, Secretary-Treasurer, Councilors, Program Committee Chair-elect, and members of the Meritorious Awards Committee. **According to the Bylaws, two new members will be selected from the membership to join the Nominating Committee each year and the membership should be directly solicited for nominees. The Nominating Committee plays a central role in ensuring that all ASIP members are considered fairly for positions of leadership. We urge you to self-nominate for consideration for this important committee. On page 13 in this *Bulletin* is a form for self-nomination. Deadline for submissions will be November 15, 2000.** Terms of office are three years. The Committee meets via conference calls in the fall of each year to develop a slate of candidates for winter elections.

To ensure that no one institution has control of the nomination process, there are certain exclusions to safeguard the democratic process. Please note that at the time of nomination, no person may be nominated for this committee if there is already a member from the nominee's institution serving a term on the committee. Therefore, persons from the following are ineligible this year: The Scripps Research Institute, Stanford University Medical Center, University of Florida College of Medicine, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, National Cancer Institute, and City of Hope National Medical Center. Current Council members are also not eligible.

On page 14, is a form for members to recommend nominees for all positions that will appear on the ballot for the next election. We encourage your participation! The deadline for submission of recommended nominees is November 15, 2000. All forms and details about the elections will be available on the ASIP homepage.

## ASIP Survey: What/Who is a Pathologist? Progress Report

Linda McManus

In response to an ASIP survey to define "what/who is a pathologist", we have received 53 replies. 46 were from men and 7 were from women. 31 respondents were from individuals at the academic rank of Professor, 13 Associate Professors, 5 Assistant Professors, and 5 others. 50 replies were from within the US.



Diverse and thoughtful comments were submitted and ranged from "who cares?" to "this is a timely and important issue for the discipline." Most replies included consideration of the transdisciplinary nature of pathology professionals. And, most respondents wrestled with the question of medical practice vs the investigation of disease.

A small sub-committee from the ASIP Council (Avrum Gotlieb, Bruce McManus, and Linda McManus) is scheduled to convene in conference call on September 22, 2000, to discuss and condense these responses into a unified statement that will be submitted to the ASIP Council for review. Subsequently, this will be distributed to the ASIP membership for further discussion/debate. Hopefully, the outcome of this exercise will be a consensus definition of what/who we are at present; this will be useful in educating: (1) members of other professional scientific organizations; (2) representatives from biomedical research grant agencies (*e.g.*, the review branch of the NIH); and (3) the public at-large. Our identity must remain flexible to accommodate technological and diagnostic advances, but, it must also remain discrete so that our continuing contributions to basic biomedical research and the practice of medicine are clearly recognized.

## *Profiles in Pathology*

- Shelley Wood

### **Dr. Susan Heffelfinger**



Ask Dr. Susan Heffelfinger how she spends her free time and she has a quick answer: "I don't have much free time to worry about," she laughs. "I have an unbelievable number of hobbies that I don't have time to do." With three kids, more interests than she has minutes to talk about them, and a career that is 75% research and 100% engaging, Heffelfinger seems not so much overwhelmed by her juggling act as she is energized by it.

Born and raised in a small town called Circleville, Ohio, Heffelfinger spent her whole childhood and teens as what she calls "a rural farm person" before leaving to attend Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. In ten years at Emory, Heffelfinger completed her Bachelors and Masters degrees in chemistry, a PhD in biochemistry, and her MD before leaving for Baylor College of Medicine in 1984. She credits the Chairman of the Chemistry Department for steering her towards medicine after she "developed an interest in biological problems."

"I was very research-orientated from the get-go," Heffelfinger explains. "Both of my parents are chemists; research is in our blood."

At Baylor, she trained in anatomical and clinical pathology, then worked as an instructor and post-doctoral fellow with Dr. Gretchen Darlington. She left Baylor in 1991 to accept a posting she still holds today, initially as assistant, and later associate professor in the University of Cincinnati, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. She also serves as Director of the Molecular and Cellular Diagnostics Laboratory, as well as attending autopsies.

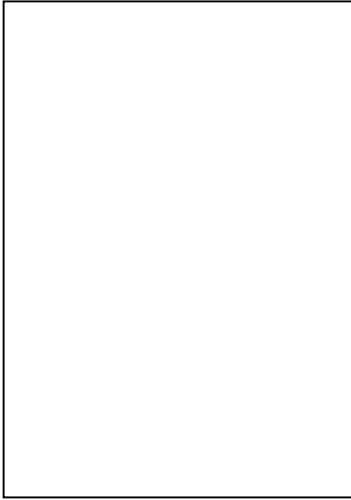
Heffelfinger emphasizes that although she has many interests, particularly in research, she is still "passionate" about the importance of autopsies. "There's a phenomenal amount that clinicians can learn about their own clinical practice, as well as disease processes in general by studying autopsies for things that went well, for things that went wrong, or things that were missed," she says. "It is very common for us to surprise the clinicians, *very* common. So if we can surprise clinicians, clearly there are aspects that are not understood." She adds: "Getting the diagnosis correct, if nothing else, is very important to the family."

Understanding disease processes and translating these to the clinical setting is something that Heffelfinger believes is essential. She emphasizes that she has "lots of different projects" but her major focus has been on angiogenesis and tumor formation, and particularly breast cancer, which she explains has very distinct, pathologically defined precursor lesions.

"Angiogenesis," she elaborates, "turns on very early in the process of tumor formation. Since tumors are dependent upon angiogenesis to grow, the question is are any of these precursor lesions dependent on angiogenesis in order to develop into disease?" In her laboratory, Heffelfinger and her colleagues have spent "a lot of time trying to define the molecular mechanisms regulating angiogenesis, but more importantly we have gone to animal model systems to actually ask the functional question, if you block angiogenesis what happens to the development of tumors?"

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## Dr. Vinay Kumar



Dr. Vinay Kumar, by his own admission, is many different men at once. When he talks about his life and work, he hops nimbly from one version of himself to another, explaining how they are different, yet inextricably linked.

Kumar, who became Chair of Pathology at the University of Chicago in March, 2000, began his medical career in India after flirting briefly with plants. "Originally I wanted to be a botanist," says Kumar. "But what I realized when I was contemplating a career in botany was that what I really liked about being a botanist was that I liked research." He adds, "I can't say that I was impassioned by the love of healing and curing mankind and so-on: no such noble motives, actually."

Encouraged by a grandfather, uncle and two cousins who were all physicians, Kumar went into medicine, receiving his MD from Punjab University Medical College in Amritsar, India in 1967, and his PhD in Pathology from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi five years later. In 1972, he accepted a junior faculty position in Pathology at Boston University School of Medicine where he first embarked on what would become a lifelong passion: cancer immunology research.

"From the very outset I was interested in cancer," Kumar explains. "In 1972 it appeared to be not only one of the most important, but also one of the

most intractable human disorders. Because of the lack of basic science at that time, and the lack of technology -- which have now really opened new insights into cancer -- it was a much, much bigger puzzle than it is now. It is still a puzzle, but at that time it just appeared more mysterious. It was a challenge to go after something very common and very poorly understood."

Kumar's work was carried out alongside Dr Michael Bennet, who arrived in Boston the same year. "He really was my mentor for the first three or four years, and since then we have become tremendous friends, colleagues, and collaborators."

With Bennett, Kumar began his research into cancer immunology by looking at genetics and whether a "poor immunological police force" could lead to tumor development. Their research led to the identification of what are now known as NK cells, and of their role in specific inherited diseases. The next 25 years, says Kumar, were spent focussed on "the cellular and molecular biology of this novel set of lymphocytes." He emphasizes however, that both he and Bennett have always endeavored to test their findings outside of the test tube. "One of the things that we have always felt was very important in our research was to not only work at the molecular level, which we have done, but we also to verify the importance of the molecular work, and *in vitro* work, *in vivo*. Both Bennett and I feel that that is very, very important." He adds, "There are some people who feel that they should be working completely with molecules and that somebody else will look at the applications. That is the purest form of basic science and it has a lot of value. A lot of great work has come from that. It's just that temperamentally, because both Michael and I were trained as physicians and pathologists, we are constantly curious to see how this relates to the whole animal and therefore how it relates to the human being. . . There's no way to predict when applications will come and from where they will come."

This is certainly true of Kumar's own work, which has led him in directions he could never have pre-

dicted in advance. After working for years on NK cellular receptors, Kumar's group learned that one of the molecules required for a particular NK receptor to function, is actually mutated in a rare familial human disease called X-linked lymphoproliferative disorder (XLP or 'Duncan's syndrome'), producing an inherited susceptibility to Epstein-Barr virus. "We have never worked with EB virus, we have never even thought of working with human immune-deficiency viruses, and suddenly we are faced with what looked like a connection between a receptor that we had cloned and described, which we never imagined had anything to do with EB virus at all." In a series of steps, which took them even further away from their initial investigations with NK cell function, Kumar and his colleagues ultimately discovered the genetic cause of another inherited disease known as Familial Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (FHL). It is just this sort of serendipitous turn of events that both mystifies and inspires Kumar. "If you'd asked me five years ago if I thought I'd be working with human immune deficiency diseases, I would have said no because I couldn't conceive of a connection," he says happily.

Kumar is eager to emphasize that he has many other activities outside of immunology. He points out that while he doesn't practice, in that he "doesn't look at slides," he is still very much a pathologist and is "deeply interested" in pathology education. In 1979, Kumar accepted an offer from his Boston colleague, Dr Stanley Robbins to co-author the world-renowned *Basic Pathology*, published in 1981. In 1982, Kumar accepted the position of Associate Professor of Pathology at the University of Texas, Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas, but over the years continued to collaborate with Robbins and Dr Ramzi Cotran, on some of the most well-thumbed pathology textbooks in use today. *Basic Pathology* and *Pathologic Basis of Disease*, are now both in their 6th editions. In 1999, Kumar, with colleagues at Southwestern University, also produced and published a CD for teaching pathology to medical students using a case-based approach.

"I have enjoyed teaching and writing every bit as much as I have enjoyed doing research," says Kumar. "This is another example of partnership in science. I was very, very lucky to have a partnership with a great scientist: Michael Bennett, and I was very lucky to have partnerships with two great pathologists: Stanley Robbins and Ramzi Cotran."

There are still more versions of Dr Vinay Kumar: a man with a penchant for short stories and a soft spot for snorkeling in the Caribbean. But just sorting out Kumar the scientist/educationalist/pathologist is too much for many. "When I go to immunology meetings, the average immunologist doesn't know much about pathology and what I do there. And when I go to pathologists' meetings, they know all about my textbooks but they have little idea of what I do in the lab."

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#### *Dr. Heffelfinger, continued*

At the same time, Heffelfinger is also involved in clinical trials looking at agents being tested as angiogenic inhibitors in chemotherapy in humans. Indeed, in all of her research areas, she keeps real world diseases very much in mind. She credits her PhD advisor at Emory for getting her started in thinking about research applications. "He really got me to make that transition from very basic bench research to actual clinical questions." It was a "turning point" for Heffelfinger.

"He was very instrumental in making me think about applying science to patient problems," she states. "I do a lot of other research that is very fundamental, and that's fine, but when I first discovered this issue of angiogenesis, the first question to me, the most critical thing was, 'oh! can these be chemopreventive?' The most fun to me is to immediately say: wow, can we take this to the clinic?"

It is a theme that dominates Heffelfinger's work and one that she has shared with her students and colleagues. "It gives everybody in my laboratory a definite focus. Everybody there believes that

everything they are doing may some day result in helping somebody." In fact, she sends her graduate students and post-docs to clinical conferences. "I want them to have that underlying tone because we have oncologists standing there with their arms crossed, tapping their foot, waiting for us to come up with something they can take to the clinic. . . . They are all very attuned to the clinical problems, particularly with breast cancer: they all have had personal experiences with somebody."

Heffelfinger discusses her work and research interests with composed enthusiasm spiked with the occasional flash of humor. Asked about her hob-

bies, she describes herself as an avid canoer with a passion for wilderness camping, having spent some of her summer in "unbelievable, end-of-nowhere Wisconsin." Wilderness aside, Heffelfinger describes herself and her family as "very much at-home kind of people." She quips, "This shows off the difference between professional men and professional women. I'm supposed to say you know, 'I sky-dive,' but in fact I am a gardening addict and a quilting and sewing addict or, I should say, a fabric addict."

*Shelley Wood is a medical writer for  
www.theheart.org*

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## NEWS & NOTES

**The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine of the University of British Columbia (UBC)** recently decided to host a "Research Gala" for Departmental members, especially focused on trainees. The objective of the Gala was to provide a relaxed atmosphere, wherein faculty members, fellows, graduate students, residents, undergraduate researchers, technologists and administrative staff could exchange ideas and research experiences. Thus, on May 11, 2000 the First Annual Research Gala was held at the Koerner Graduate Centre at the UBC campus. The event was made possible by the support of the Department Executive and the hard work of many dedicated faculty members and staff. The day began with a keynote lecture by a distinguished guest pathologist-scientist, Dr. Abul Abbas, Professor & Chair, Department of Pathology, University of California - San Francisco, who delivered an elegant, lucid, stimulating and well-received presentation, followed by a lively discussion with scientists in an audience of 150 people. Attendees were then invited to a two hour poster session with refreshments, for vigorous interchanges with the young scientists among us. The science was followed by dinner, during which a harpist and flutist played "taffel" music. During dessert, poster awards were presented. Graduate students had prepared a very amusing skit based



*Drs. Abul Abbas and Elizabeth Lawlor, a Postdoctoral Fellow at BC Research Institute for Children's & Women's Health*

on the TV series, *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, a Canadian mainstay, and a handful of talented, Hollywood-bound faculty members performed a "mini-musical" to honor Dr. McManus. The delightful evening ended with the performance of a "world class" accordion player, Stevan Knezevich, who literally brought tears to everyone's eyes when he played a potpourri of Ukrainian and Russian pieces.

The dinner was served in the Sage Bistro of the Faculty Centre; the combination of a stimulating academic program, a view of cherry trees with the North Shore Mountains in the background, and harp and flute music set the tone for special feelings on the beautiful spring evening.

An excellent poster booklet was created for the Gala, demonstrating the wealth of creativity and the diversity of research that occurs in the broad expanse of the Department. The Gala provided the geographically dispersed Department members a venue to appreciate all of the marvelous proteges who are carrying the research forward to a guiding maxim of populations to molecules. We hope that this year's Gala is the first of many to follow.

**Dr. Abul K. Abbas**, MBBS, joined the faculty of UCSF on October 1, 1999, as Professor and Chair in the Department of Pathology. An internationally recognized research immunologist, Dr. Abbas left a distinguished 22-year career at Harvard Medical School to assume the chairmanship at UCSF. "Dr. Abbas brings new energy and vision to the Department of Pathology," said Dean Haile Debas. "His recruitment represents one of the steps the School of Medicine is taking to create at UCSF one of the best immunology programs in the country."

Dr. Abbas joined the Department of Pathology at Harvard in 1977, where he was professor since 1991. The focus of his research is the biology of the immune response, with an emphasis on genetics of autoimmune disease, work he says he will continue at UCSF. He has received several teaching awards, including the Harvard Medical School Faculty Prize for Excellence in Teaching and the Irving M. London Teaching Award, and has served as chairman of the Education Committee of the American Association of Immunologists. Dr. Abbas is also author of *Cellular and Molecular Immunology*, a leading text in the field, and one of the four founding editors of the journal, *Immunity*. A native of Patna, India, Abbas received his medical training at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi and his training in Pathology at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston. He is a recipient of the Warner-Lambert/Parke-Davis Award of the ASIP.



**A message from Steve Schwartz and Bill Muller: RETURN OF THE BOARDWALK.** Years ago, when NAVBO began to meet as the Blood Vessel Club within the ASIP meetings, those meetings were usually at Atlantic City. A great deal of the real meeting, especially for young investigators, went on along the Boardwalk where informal discussions, some lasting into the wee AM hours, went on. Today's meetings, especially large meetings, have lost a lot of that. As an experiment, ASIP and NAVBO are exploring an on-line forum, a sort of electronic boardwalk. While the ambiance can not recapitulate the sea breezes and assorted entrepreneurs of the bygone era, we hope we can encourage a return of some of the informality. The concept is to use the forum as an extension of sessions at the ASIP and NAVBO meetings, an informal discussion forum where the speakers in a forum will agree to make themselves available for some months to discuss issues arising from the formal session. For now, we are testing some software to see if this idea can work. Members of the two societies are welcome to log on at [www.beeboard.com/pathology/](http://www.beeboard.com/pathology/). Once there you need to register. The register link is at the top of the screen or you may try:

[www.beeboard.com/pathology/join.cgi](http://www.beeboard.com/pathology/join.cgi)

**William N. Fishbein**, MD, PhD, Chief Biochemical Pathology Div., Dept Environmental & Toxicological Pathology, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, is an invited member of the NASA workshop group seeking to define comprehensive protocols for assessing the possible biohazard of Martian ground samples to be returned to Earth

*Continued on Page 15*

# Solicitation for Members of the ASIP Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is comprised of 6 elected members and the Past President who chairs the committee. Two new members will be elected this winter for a term of three years, beginning July 1, 2001. **According to the Bylaws, new members of the Nominating Committee are selected by direct solicitation of the membership.** Both Regular and Emeritus members are eligible. The committee will meet via conference calls each fall to develop a slate of candidates for winter elections.

To ensure that no one institution has control of the nomination process, there are certain exclusions to safeguard the democratic process. Please note that at the time of nomination, no person may be nominated for the Nominating Committee if there is already a member from the nominee's institution serving a term on the committee. Therefore, persons from the following institutions are ineligible this year: The Scripps Research Institute, Stanford University Medical Center, University of Florida College of Medicine, The Cleveland Clinic, National Cancer Institute, and City of Hope National Medical Center. In addition, current members of Council are not eligible. A summary of the relevant Bylaws governing elections is available on the ASIP homepage.

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I wish to be considered as a candidate in the upcoming ASIP Nominating Committee Elections. **I include an abridged curriculum vitae.** If elected, I am willing to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee for a three-year term and I understand the committee's charge as put forth by the ASIP Bylaws.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

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Name/Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Position(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Institution(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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**Return form to the ASIP office.  
Due November 15, 2000**

*9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3993 • Telephone (301) 530-7130 Fax (301) 571-1879  
Frances A. Pitlick, Ph.D. Executive Officer*

# Solicitation for Nominees for Winter 2001 ASIP Elections

The Nominating Committee solicits your participation in the winter 2001 elections. On the next ballot, ASIP will be electing two new members of the Nominating Committee, two new members of the Meritorious Awards Committee, two new Councilors, Vice President-elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and Program Committee Chair-elect. Self-nominations are encouraged.

To ensure that no one institution has undue influence over the governance of the Society, there are certain exclusions to safeguard the democratic process. Please note that at the time of nomination, no person may be nominated to a committee or to Council if there is already a member from the nominee's institution serving a term on that specific committee. The Nominating Committee will be responsible for verifying eligibility of nominees. A summary of the relevant Bylaws governing elections is available on the ASIP homepage.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, nominate the following ASIP members:

**Nominees for Council :**

**Vice-President-elect** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary-Treasurer** \_\_\_\_\_

**Program Committee Chair-elect** \_\_\_\_\_

**Councilor(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominees for Meritorious Awards Committee:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Nominees for Nominating Committee:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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## News and Notes continued

during the coming decade. The first workshop was held in March of this year, and the next two are scheduled for late October and November. The recent evidence suggesting subsurface water on Mars has greatly increased the possibility of encountering primitive life forms there. The definitive confirmation of Martian organisms and their evolutionary relationship to terrestrial forms would be one of the greatest discoveries in the history of science, but at the same time signals the extreme importance of safeguarding Earth life (and Martian life as well) from contamination during the exploration, retrieval, and initial studies to be carried out in the highest level containment facilities.

The University of Iowa is part of a consortium that has launched a new medical information site for health professionals. The consortium was formed and is directed by the Departments of Pathology at Creighton University, Stanford University, the University of California at Davis, the University of California at San Francisco, the University of Iowa and the University of Southern California. The service is available on an annual subscription

basis. If you need further information contact Dr. Kenneth L. Sims at [ksims@upcmd.com](mailto:ksims@upcmd.com) or Dr. Michael Cohen at [michael-cohen@uiowa.edu](mailto:michael-cohen@uiowa.edu).

A special issue of the electronic journal “**Frontiers in Bioscience**” has just been put online. The special issue is entitled “Anti-stress mechanisms in archaea: Implications in biology and medicine.” Frontiers in Bioscience has been one of the first refereed electronic journals to publish original work and reviews and, contains topics of direct interest to pathologists. Additional links are: [www.bioscience.org/current/special/macario.htm](http://www.bioscience.org/current/special/macario.htm) and [www.bioscience.org/current/special/subject.htm](http://www.bioscience.org/current/special/subject.htm)

### Other web links of interest from the University of Minnesota :

Lab. Med. & Path. home page:

[pathology.umn.edu/simplehome.htm](http://pathology.umn.edu/simplehome.htm)

Residency Program:

[resmanual.labmed.umn.edu/home.htm](http://resmanual.labmed.umn.edu/home.htm)

Gopher Job site:

[pathology.umn.edu/Jobs/PathGopher.html](http://pathology.umn.edu/Jobs/PathGopher.html)

Immunology Center:

[www.borg.labmed.umn.edu/imm.html](http://www.borg.labmed.umn.edu/imm.html)

### Special Workshop for MD/PhD Trainees CAREER PATHWAYS IN PATHOLOGY FOR PHYSICIAN SCIENTISTS

A scientific session and a panel discussion on career opportunities in academic pathology

March 31, 2001 - 9:00AM – 12:00PM  
Orlando Convention Center

A limited number of attendee abstracts will be selected for oral presentation.

Registration forms available in the EB 2001 Call for Papers, page 63 or  
see [asip.uthscsa.edu/ANNMEET\\_COURSE/EB01\\_mstp.html](http://asip.uthscsa.edu/ANNMEET_COURSE/EB01_mstp.html)

**The first 20 registrants will be provided with a boxed lunch!**

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## ***UPCOMING MEETINGS***

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual APIII Meeting (Advancing Pathology Informatics, Imaging, and the Internet)**  
October 26-28, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene  
Pre-Meeting Course: Updates in Vector Borne Human Diseases of the New World**  
October 28-29, 2000; Houston, Texas

**The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene**  
October 29-November 2, 2000; Houston, Texas

**The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP)**  
November 10-12, 2000; Denver, Colorado

**Experimental Biology 2001/ASIP Annual Meeting**  
March 31–April 4, 2001; Orlando, Florida

**3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference Homocysteine Metabolism**  
July 4-7, 2001; Sorrento, Italy

## ***UPCOMING DEADLINES***

**Warner-Lambert/Parke-David Award**  
Nominations Due by October 10, 2000

**Rous-Whipple Award**  
Nominations Due by October 10, 2000

**Gold-Headed Cane Award**  
Nominations Due by October 10, 2000

**EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY 2001  
ABSTRACT DEADLINE**  
November 6, 2000

**Experimental Pathologist-in-Training Award**  
Applications Due by November 6, 2000

**ASIP Student Travel Award**  
Applications Due by November 6, 2000

**Nominations for Nominating Committee and  
Suggestions for Council and Award Committee**  
Due by November 15, 2000

### ***ASIP Staff Members***

Dennis Galloway, Meetings and Membership; Coordinator; Bernadette Englert, Special Projects Coordinator (part-time). In the *AJP* offices: Priscilla Markwood, *AJP* Managing Editor; Maria Giorla Eiseman, Assistant Managing Editor; Terri Cash, Michael Dustin, Bradley Jay Freeland and Suzanne O'Neill, Editorial Assistants.

### ***ASIP Membership Application***

Available on our website:  
<http://asip.uthscsa.edu/>  
or  
Call (301) 530-7130  
Fax (301) 571-1879

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