Dr. Laura Nagy recently joined the faculty in the Pathobiology department this July. Although everyone has not yet arrived in the new lab space, those that were in the lab were quite busy unpacking boxes and quickly setting up experiments that were in progress at her previous lab at CASE. Laura is most keen on getting her research animals acclimated to their new home so that there is as little down-time as possible. Her new lab, located on the east side of the 4th floor of the NE building, is bright and inviting. The lab personnel that could not escape the camera are pictured above.

“...The research in my laboratory is aimed at understanding how chronic alcohol consumption contributes to chronic diseases, such as liver disease and diabetes. Specific projects include 1) studying the effects of ethanol on the innate immune system; 2) understanding how ethanol disrupts signal transduction via the toll-like receptors, leading to disruption of the transcriptional and post-transcriptional regulation of cytokine production and 3) investigating how ethanol causes insulin resistance in adipose tissue, leading to impaired GLUT4 vesicle trafficking and glucose transport, as well as abnormal regulation of triglyceride homeostasis.”

Dr. Nagy’s most recent publications are:


Thakur V, Pritchard MT, McMullen MR, Nagy LE. Adiponectin normalizes LPS-stimulated TNF-alpha production by rat Kupffer cells after chronic ethanol feeding. Am J Physiol Gastrointest Liver Physiol. 2006 May;290(5):G998-1007

Focus on: Laura Nagy Laboratory

Healthy Rat Liver (Normal diet)

Damaged Rat Liver (Ethanol diet)

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New Grant Awards

Mark Aronica: NIH/NIH/NIHLBI R01 “Extracellular Matrix: Synthesis and Turnover in Asthma”

Serpi Erzurum: NIH/NIH/NIHLBI P01 “Pathobiology of Asthma”; American Heart Assn Transplant & Preparation Center grant award.

Claudio Fiocchi: NIH/NIDDK

RO1 “Role of Angiogenesis in IBD Pathogenesis.”

Alana Majors: NIH/NHLBI R21 “The Unfolding of Marfan Syndrome.”

Dennis Stuehr: NIH/NHLBI R01 “Nitric Oxide Synthases as Oxidative and Therapeutic Agents.”

All NIH funding information can be found at the following website:

Message From Our Chairperson:

It is hard to believe that more than a year has passed from the inception of our department. It has been an eventful and hectic time for all of us, with the end result being that our department has now taken on a spirit of its own. This newsletter highlights how far our department has come in just this short time. First, a very special thank you to Sean Kessler for giving life to Pathobiology News. We plan to have the News as a quarterly publication. Thanks for everyone’s contributions to our inaugural issue! It is impossible to highlight all that has happened since the start of our department. Perhaps the most substantial accomplishment – and certainly bonding experience - of the past year for all of us was moving our labs. Everyone deserves a huge round of applause for their efforts and general good cheer during renovation and moving. We all had our share of moving boxes, cleaning benches, setting up equipment, and yet somehow managed to accomplish all with minimal delays to our research. Over that same time, our department grew with the addition of new members and staff (many are highlighted in this issue of the News), and the recruitment of our administrator, Mary Ann Verbic. Mary Ann, who joined us just 6 months ago, has been a key factor in accelerating our successful settling into our labs and getting grants out in time (and recently electronically). Renovation of our department space on NC2 has been a progressive process, and hopefully everyone has recently noticed the new signage and paint. There is still more to come, including artwork on NC2, a plaque for our signature artwork at the entrance to NC2, and signage on NE4 where our new colleagues in Pathobiology reside. The Tuesday Pathobiology seminar series were initiated and provided an opportunity over the past year to hear outstanding external and internal speakers, thanks in large part to the efforts of Alana Majors and Roseanne Baldrey. We already have a stimulating line up of visiting speakers for the next academic year, and look forward to stellar research presentations from our graduate students and fellows in Pathobiology. Finally, the continuing success of our department in publications, grant awards, and presentations at national and international invitational meetings, despite the upheaval during transition to our new department and the physical move, can be a source of pride to all of us. Hearing the excitement in everyone’s labs about their ongoing research promises that this next year will only be better than the last.

Professional Recognition and Appointments

Scott Strong, M.D.—On July 13, Dr. Strong became the Thomas C. and Sandra S. Sullivan Family Endowed Chair in the Department of colorectal surgery.

Dennis Stuehr PhD—won the 2006 CCF Innovator Award for developing a fluorescent probe for inducible N0 synthase. He also was awarded a patent for ex vivo use of the probe.

Tracey Bonfield, PhD—achieve Diplomat status, passing both written and oral American Board of Medical Laboratory Immunologist exams.

Congratulation to the following for their indicated years of service at the Cleveland Clinic:

Suzy Comhair 10 yrs, Claudio Fiocchi 20 yr, Sean Kessler 15 yrs, Thomas Koeck 5 yrs, Dennis Stuehr 15 yrs

New Publications


Presentations at National and International Meetings

Claudio Fiocchi MD — Pathogenesis-Why is Inflammatory Bowel Disease Increasing in Asia? (State of the Art lecture) Falk Symposium 151, Sydney, Australia.

Claudio Fiocchi MD — The Multifactorial Pathogenesis of Inflammatory Bowel Disease. (State of the Art Lecture) Falk Symposium 154, Moscow, Russia.

Carol de la Motte PhD — The Extracellular Matrix Component Hyaluronan (HA) Is Increased Over Time in the DSS Model of Colitis, and Precedes Leukocyte Influx. Monocyte Interaction with HA Affects Migration and Gene Expression. Digestive Disease Week, Los Angeles, CA.

Alana Majors PhD — Improving the Structure of the Extracellular Matrix Produced by Cells from Patients with Marfan Syndrome. Pan Pacific Connective Tissue Conference, Waikoloa, HA.

Serpil Erzurum MD — Molecular and Cellular Basis of Disease: Redox Mediated Diseases and ROS/RNS in Asthma Pathophysiology. Amer. Soc. For Investigative Pathology, San Francisco, CA.

Upcoming Departmental Seminars

**Tuesday Dept Seminar Series**
- Sept 12  Mark Aronica-CCF
- Sept 22  Piero Biancani- Brown University
- Sept 26  Eric White- Univ. of Michigan
- Oct 3  Celeste Simon-Tenn
- Oct 10  Harry Pothoulakis-Harvard
- Oct 17  Metin Aytekin/Katherine Binder-CCF

**Wednesday Staff Seminar Series**
- Sept 13  Dr. Serpil Erzurum
- Oct 11  Dr. Carol de la Motte
- Nov 8  Dr. Cynthia Beall
- Dec 13  Dr. John Kirwan

Chairman’s Choice Award

- **When** — Within your lab’s designated month, submit a recently accepted paper or abstract.
- **Relevance** — Include bullet point 3 key findings that are significant to human health.
- **Award** — Twice each year, the winning lab will be announced at our Pathobiology Department seminar.
- **CASH PRIZE OF $150**

New Personnel

The Pathobiology Department welcomes our newest members:

**Allison Stark**, Research Technician (Aronica Lab)

**Rachel Leahy**, Grad Student (Ezurum lab)

**Richard Hanson**, PhD (Adjunct Staff - CWRU Biochemistry)

**Satish Kalhan**, MD—joint appt (primary Gastro - New dept chair) and lab members: **Joyce Nolan**, Med Secretary II; **Lourdes Gruca**, Lead Research Technician; **Carole Bennett**, Sr. Research Technician; **Clarita Dueñas**, Research Technician; **Colleen Nye**, Grad Student; **Jaeyeon Kim**, Grad Student

**John Kirwan**, PhD—joint appt (primary Gastro) and lab members: **Valerie O’Leary**, PhD; Research Scholar; **Latina Brooks**, Post doc; **Rima Toukan**, Research Student

**Arthur McCullough, MD**— joint appt (primary Gastro - New dept chair) and lab members: **Ali Varastehpour**, Research Technician; **Sean Muc**, Research Technologist

**Laura Nagy**, PhD — joint appt (primary Gastro) and her lab members: **Becky Sebastian**, Sr. Research Technologist; **Megan McMullen**, Sr. Research Technologist; **Brian Pratt**, Research Technician; **Michele Iono**, Research Technician; **Kathryn Bryan**, Post doc; **Li Kang**, Grad student, **Jessica Cohen**, Grad Student; **Xiaocong Chen**, Grad Student; **Pil Hoon Park**, Post-doc; **Abram Stavitsky**, Emeritus Professor; **Michele Pritchard**, Post-doc

**Satish Kalhan MD**

**John Kirwan PhD**

**Arthur McCullough MD**
The mission of the Department of Pathobiology is the discovery of mechanisms and origins of human disease, and the use of that knowledge for the development of basic and applied strategies for detection, prevention and control of diseases.

The Cleveland Clinic Foundation has a long and distinguished history in research. Most of the 127 research laboratories are housed in the state-of-the-art Lerner Building. The scientists who conduct research in the LRI welcome applications from qualified individuals who wish to further their scientific careers by participating in and contributing to leading edge biomedical research.