

Letter from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

This is the period of the year when we look back and reflect on what we have accomplished as a department. We have many reasons to be thankful and appreciate our collective effort to bring excellence to our clinical and research community. Let me first of all thank all of you, Faculty, Trainees and Staff, for your amazing work. Whatever your role is in the department, it matters and is essential for our common success! We may not realize it in the daily hustle of a busy place like NYULH, but we constantly work not just with, but for one another. Our research and clinical labs are both aiming to make new discoveries and to advance diagnoses that benefit patients in our care. This is only possible through a tight collaboration of research and clinical practice. Our faculty and trainees are connected by a symbiotic relationship that results in amazing accomplishments. Often we face challenges along the way, but they are part of the learning process and help us improve our skills and push ourselves to new limits. Last but not least, we have a fantastic administrative team that every day enables all of us to do our jobs well. Their commitment makes the Department work, by submitting grant applications, keeping our finances in good order, supporting our educational mission and administering our clinical practice. Thank you all for your great work and commitment to strengthen our department.



One particular achievement I want to highlight is the first anniversary of the Department of Pathology Newsletter! We started this project in December 2018 with a lot of enthusiasm and expectations but with some uncertainty how this project would develop. A year later, we have published five exciting issues that keep getting better and better. My special thanks go to **Dr. Caterina Berti**, who is the editor and creative mind behind the Newsletter. Through the Newsletter, we have shared with you important news from all mission areas of the Department (clinical, research & education). The Newsletter is doing a marvelous job to highlight the many achievements our faculty and trainees, to strengthen our community by connecting current members from all areas of the Department and to reinforce the ties with our former trainees. Sharing the stories of our alumni is a great resource for our current trainees who I hope will benefit from their experience to navigate their own career paths. As we begin year two of the Newsletter, please keep sharing your achievements with us and send us feedback & suggestions to make the Newsletter a continued success!

These are a few highlights from this issue of the Newsletter:

- We were lucky to recruit several talented attendings, who are experts in different sub-specialties. Please welcome Drs. **Negin Shafizadeh** (Cytopathology), **Deepthi Hoskoppal** (Gastrointestinal Pathology), **Margaret Cho** (Gastrointestinal Pathology and Cytopathology) and **Melissa Guzzetta** (Autopsy Pathology and Forensic Pathology).
- On the research side, we welcome **Dr. Jun Wang**, Assistant Professor, who recently joined the department. Discover more about his work on immune checkpoint inhibitors for cancer immunotherapy inside this issue.
- **Dr. Matija Snuderl** successfully collaborated with the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) in Heidelberg on the generation of an epigenetic map of Brain tumors (*Nature* in 2018) that allowed the development of the first molecular test for brain tumors available to patients.
- **Our Postdocs** were highly represented at the Research Postdoc Symposium where 7 of them presented their work to the NYU postdoctoral community during the National Postdoc Appreciation week. Read more about their research in the article below.
- The Department is opening a new **Ion Channel Core Facility** that is part of the Ion Channel & Immunity (ICI) Program headed by **Dr. Stefan Feske**, Vice Chair for Research of our Department. The core is scheduled to open in mid-December on the 4th floor of the Science Building. **Dr. William A. Coetzee**, professor in the departments of Pediatrics, Biochemistry & Molecular Pharmacology and Neuroscience & Physiology, will be the core director. Its goal is to facilitate research in the area of ion channel function in immune cells and other tissues. Read more about the core and ICI program in the New & Notable section of this issue.

I hope to see you all at our Holidays party on December 13th!

Wishing you a joyful Holiday season and happy reading!

Best regards,
Iannis