Dear Colleagues,

I would like to welcome you all to the new academic year that started after a busy summer full of events and accomplishments for our department.

Initially, we hosted a very successful 6th annual Pathology retreat in June. The retreat is usually a great opportunity for our community to discuss ongoing research and promote the sense of community and collaborative spirit, that are crucial for our department culture. This year Drs. Freske and DeLair organized the event and did a remarkable job in integrating Clinical, Translational and Basic research in an intense one day program full of outstanding talks. Six Trainees (PhD, Postdoc, Residents and Fellows) were selected among several applicants to present their research and four other trainees won the “best poster” section. I encourage you to meet them and read about their studies in the Spotlight section of this issue.

The annual Immunology and Inflammation (I&I) retreat also took place in June. Organized by Drs. Reizis, Schwab and Krogsgaard, this event featured an outstanding group of local and external speakers. The program highlighted research by junior faculty members from NYU and other institutions in New York City, giving trainees an opportunity to interact with them and learn more about this challenging yet exciting career stage. The program had a special session dedicated to tumor immunology and a really interesting poster section. For more details, please read this issue of Spotlight to meet the winners for best poster award and for more details about the program.

The summer was also a time of welcoming our new graduate students in the I&I (Immunology and Inflammation) and MOTI (Molecular Oncology and Tumor Immunology) research training programs and our new crop of Pathology Residents and Fellows for academic year 2019-20. More information can be found in the New & Notable section of this issue.

Our department keeps growing in space. All moves announced before the summer occurred smoothly consolidating our pathology labs in Smilow and New Science buildings. The Possemato and Park labs moved to Smilow 6 this July, joining the Papagiannakopoulous, Freske and Koralov labs that had already moved to Smilow 5 in the Spring. Now Smilow 3, 5, 6 and 13 floors are part of our Department making Smilow 3, 5 and 6 entirely pathology floors. The Reizis lab moved to the Science building 4th floor, joining the Naik lab.

We are not just growing in space but also in our group of talented Clinical and Research Faculty! On the research side, we recently welcomed Dr. Jun Wang, who started as Assistant Professor in our department. His lab is located on the 3rd floor of Smilow. Jun joined NYU after a really productive postdoc in the Chen lab at Yale, where he published remarkable results studying immune suppressors for cancer immunotherapy. We are thrilled to have him on our team and we are looking forward to seeing his impressive research skills further strengthen our core of talented investigators. On the clinical side, we were fortunate to add a number of talented attendings, who are experts in different sub-specialties. Please join me to welcome Drs. Negin Shafizadeh, Deepthi Hoskoppal, Margaret Cho and Melissa Guzzetta and wish them all the success in our Department.

Finally, I would like to congratulate some of our faculty members who made remarkable achievements during the last few months and these include:

- Drs. Eva Hernando-Monge, George Jour and Michelle Krogsgaard were part of the NYU multidisciplinary team that received the National Cancer Institute (NCI) P50 Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE) grant. The program will design tools (biomarkers) to help predicting whether Immunotherapy treatments in Melanoma will be effective for a given patient.

- Dr. Syed Hoda, Assistant Professor, Director, Surgical Pathology, NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital, was named as one of the Top 100 of The Pathologist’s 2019 Power List.

- Dr. Richard Possemato, Assistant Professor, won the student-led mentoring award recently created by the Sackler Institute for Graduate Biomedical Science.

I encourage you to read more about these accomplishments and other department events and activities in this newsletter. Please feel free to contact me personally and the entire team with any questions or comments—I would love to hear from you.

Best regards,

Iannis