

---

# Pathology News

---

Vol. 7 #08

August 2000

---

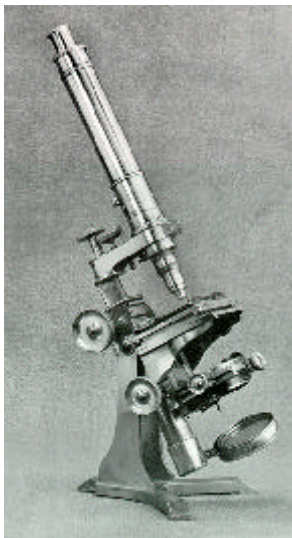
## Publishing Info

Pathology News  
Department of Pathology, Richardson Labs  
Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6  
Canada

<http://www.path.queensu.ca/>

Published monthly, Circulation 160  
For article submissions please see last page

We publish only that which is submitted! (There are no expense accounts and no reporters) If there is no news about your area that means we haven't received any!



## From the Head

Welcome to Monique Arquint

We are delighted to welcome back Dr. Monique Arquint as a staff pathologist and Assistant Professor. She was one of our most accomplished residents of the last decade. Monique is one of an increasingly rare breed of pathologists who have a breadth of knowledge in both Anatomic Pathology and the other clinical dimensions of our laboratory. Monique also brings a depth of expertise in interventional cytopathology gained during a fellowship at Baylor and two years on faculty at the University of British Columbia.

I have attached our official announcement of the appointment.

P.N. Manley, MD

### **ANNOUNCEMENT APPOINTMENT OF MONIQUE ARQUINT, MD, PhD, FRCPC**

The Department of Pathology of Queen's University and the Kingston Hospitals is very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Monique Arquint, effective August 1, 2000. Dr. Arquint will hold the positions of Assistant Professor in the university department and Staff Pathologist at the Kingston Hospitals.

Following her initial undergraduate biochemistry training at the University of York, England, Dr. Arquint completed Master's and PhD degrees at Queen's University. Her PhD was focussed on myelin associated

glycoprotein and she was the first to clone and characterize this gene. After a postdoctoral fellowship with Dr. John Roder at the University of Toronto, Dr. Arquint completed training in medicine at the University of Toronto and General Pathology at Queen's University. She then undertook a fellowship in cytopathology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in General Pathology, a Diplomate of the American Board of Pathologists (AP/CP) and a Fellow of the American Board of Cytopathology. For the last two years, Dr. Arquint has served as a Staff Pathologist at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver.

Dr. Arquint's primary clinical responsibilities at the Kingston Hospitals will be centred on the cytology and surgical pathology services and she will be participating in the sign out of dermatopathology, urologic pathology, breast pathology, gynecologic pathology, gastrointestinal pathology and head and neck pathology cases.

Dr. Arquint's office will be located on Douglas 2 of the Kingston General Hospital. Her telephone number will be: 549-6666 extension 3538; e-mail: <arquint@cliff.path.queensu.ca>

### **Commemoration of Dr. Bud Kipkie September 12, 2000, 4:30-6:00 pm, Richardson Amphitheatre**

In our June 2000 Newsletter we wished Bud Kipkie a happy 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. Even though we aged Bud by several months as his birthday falls on September 12<sup>th</sup>, it hasn't stopped him from continuing to play 18 holes of golf and enjoying life.

We intend to formally celebrate Bud Kipkie's birthday on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm in Richardson Amphitheatre. We will have a series of reminiscences about Bud - hopefully with no holds barred - followed by a reception in Richardson. We have had a formal portrait of Bud framed which we will

subsequently hang on the wall in Douglas 2. This is a continuation of our commitment to recognize and celebrate the contributions of those who played a large role in shaping our department.

Please join us in this commemoration of Dr. Bud Kipkie's contributions to Queen's and to KGH. We are inviting all departmental faculty, residents and senior KGH technical staff individually, and in addition emeritus faculty with their spouses.

P.N. Manley, M.D.

### **Thank you**

A short note Dr. Manley received from Dr. Nathan Kaufman following the 1<sup>st</sup> Nathan Kaufman Lecture given by Dr. Errol C. Friedberg - "Dear Paul, I want to tell you and members of the Department how pleased I was with the initiation of the Nathan Kaufman Lectureship and the accompanying activities. I appreciated it. My family appreciated it. The warmth and generosity of Bob's and your presentations evoked many reflections of things past and reinforced my feeling that the real rewards in my professional life are the accomplishments and successes of my chosen colleagues, the accomplishments and successes of the people I recruited to the Department (whether they are still there or not), and the successful careers of the trainees whom we had accepted into our residency program. Enough said. I do want to extend my congratulations to you and your colleagues for the choice of the inaugural lecturer. It was a good fit.

Best personal regards, NATE

### **F**or Your Information

Our condolences are extended to the family of Lalitha Subrahmanyam who recently passed away. Lalitha worked as a research technologist in Dr. Kisilevsky's laboratory from 1983 to 1993.

### **More folks on the Move:**

In late July more people moved around from Douglas2 to Richardson 201:

Mary Waugh: Room 201-D 533-6342

Dr. Chris Collier: Room 201-C 533-2823

Dr. Mike Raymond: Room 201F 533-2345

Dave More will be moving from Douglas304 to Douglas201 sometime this month.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Don and Samina Maurice on the birth of their son Zacharia, weighing 8lbs 12oz. A brother for Yasmeen and Adam.

### **Grant Awards**

John Rossiter has been awarded \$43,500 by the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation for his project entitled "Detection of Diffuse Axonal Injury in Human Cases of Very Short Post-Injury Survival by Beta-APP Immunohistochemistry".

David Lillicrap has received a one year renewal from Bayer, Inc. of \$100,000 for his project entitled: "Studies of a Dog Model for Hemophilia Gene Therapy".

David Lillicrap has signed an Agreement with Genetics Institute for \$93,439 for his study: "Establishment of a Factor VIII Mutation Testing Program for the ReFacto, Previously Untreated Patient Study".

### **Milestones**

Dr. Samuel Ludwin - pathology - 25 years

Lois Birtch - microbiology - 30 years

### **Publications**

*Chest Pain with Nondiagnostic Electrocardiogram in the Emergency Department: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Two Cardiac marker Regimens*  
Eugene Dagnone, **Christine Collier**, William Pickett, Naheed Ali, Mardelle Miller, Debbie Tod, Ross Morton  
CMAJ 162(11): pp. 1561-1566, 2000

*Understanding Multiple Sclerosis: Lessons from Pathology*

**Samuel K. Ludwin**

Annals of Neurology 46(6): pp. 691-693, 2000

*Histopathology of Psoriasis Treated with Zinc Pyrithione*

**Caroline Rowlands** and F. William Danby

The American Journal of Dermatopathology 22(3):272-276, 2000.

### **Museum of Health Care Ann Baillie Building "National Historic Site"**

Did you know?

The Museum of Health Care is located on the property of the Kingston General Hospital, on George Street, across from the Louise D. Acton Building.

Did you know?

That we are now open 11:00 am to 4:00 pm Tuesday thru Sunday

Did you know?

The Museum is home to over 18,000 medical/nursing artifacts including many from HDH, KGH, KPH, BPH. Did you know? Admission is Free!!

Did you know? We just opened a new gallery " Potions, Pills & Prescriptions: Remedies in 1900".

Come and Visit us on your lunch hour or coffee break. Bring your friends and/or relatives.

For further information please call us at (613) 548-2419 or email us at [museum@kgh.kari.net](mailto:museum@kgh.kari.net) or visit our website: [www.museumofhealthcare.on.ca](http://www.museumofhealthcare.on.ca)

**D**r. Dexter's Corner  
**Le Mot Juste or What's in a Name**

Guy Lavigne\* has dropped a few rocks in the Reflective Pond of Life and rather than the usual targetoid ripples emanating centrifugally from a gentle point of entry, tidal waves or tsunamis are the order of the day. It is, apparently, Robert Douglas' fault. He changed his name (surely a given right) to more accurately reflect his African descent. So, while his new name of Tiyani Behanzin was accepted by Canada and the United Kingdom, it was not acceptable to the "Directeur de L'état civil" of Quebec. Why you may ask? "The name sought by the petitioner is a name of foreign origin that can be difficult to pronounce or write". Good heavens! That logic must send shivers down the



spines of those with aspirations for innovative names for themselves or even for their offspring. The name of Ivory for a beloved daughter was deemed unacceptable on the grounds that it was too easily confused with the popular brand of soap. This is a fine example of administrative madness, a spreading affliction common amongst those with little to do. My advice is to keep him away from the phone book. It is too full of opportunity, indeed it is riddled with polysyllabic foreignness. One imagines only simple names, no more than four letters, at least two of which must be vowels, and two of which must be consonants would be acceptable. Hankering after hyphens should be a criminal offence but curiously is not.

On reflection, there may be an opportunity here. A bureaucratic opportunity. The Federal..... no it would have to be Provincial Ministry of Nomenclature (Names) could have far-flung influence on our lives both at work and at leisure.

The application to Medicine would solve the perplexity of pharmacologic nomenclature. A random pick from the CPS 2000 yields: APO-etodolac, taro-desoximetasone, tracrrium (also known as Atracurium besylate), or viracept (nelfinavir mesylate - a protease that is easy to live with). Alas while it is easy to live with, Maître Lavigne would not find it so.

† A recent editorial in the Lancet speaks to a somewhat similar scheme to deal with the complex and sometimes similar drug nomenclature. Names such as chlorpromazine and chlorpropamide become one when the order is transcribed by a physician's scrawl and the incorrect choice or translation can cause patient harm. The United States Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention( USCCMERP for short) proposed a four letter code for unique tablet identification but both the FDA and the industry has been reluctant to introduce it. Perhaps Monsieur Lavigne could help?

Surgeons would have to stop doing choledochaljejunostomies as a matter of choice. They could do the procedure, but they would have to call it something else, e.g. gall drain. Ophthalmology would cease to exist as it is too difficult to spell. Even in the hospital setting it is often deprived of the luxury of the second 'h'.

In Pathology much of the vocabulary would be lost immediately on the grounds of it sounding too foreign. Pneumonia, ecchymosis, encephalomalacia - it all sounds to much like Greek to me. Obliteration of all such terms would reduce the incidence of encephalalgia dramatically (Whoops substitute head pain!).

Might one dare to suggest yet another nomenclature (sorry: name) system for lymphomas? The Lavigne System would above all else be simple. There would be three types: the good, the bad and the ugly. It does appeal. It is applicable widely in Medicine. Anyone would understand it. Textbooks could be discarded. Medical Records would be reduced to a file of 3 x 5 cards. The savings though, while enormous, would be largely consumed by the very necessary expansion of the Ministry of Names.

Rumor has it that a Deputy Minister will be appointed to lead the Division of Numbers. To keep it simple and widely applicable only ten (10) numbers are being considered as the maximum to be used corresponding to the number of the Minister's digits.

Since this essay was penned on or around Canada Day, our inspirational idol Joe (no not Joe Clark) but the

Canadian chap (Joe, I am a ...), is still awaiting approval of his name in Quebec. Perhaps Jean would have been more palatable to Minister Lavigne?

Reference:

- © Editorial: National Post Thursday June 29, 2000, page A14.  
 † Editorial: Medication errors, worse than a crime. Lancet 355:947, March 18, 2000.

## Then and Now

(All too true for many of us.)

1970: Long Hair

2000: Longing for hair

1970: The perfect high.

2000: The perfect high yield mutual fund.

1970: Keg.

2000: EKG.

1970: Acid Rock.

2000: Acid Reflux.

1970: Moving to California because it's cool.

2000: Moving to California because it's warm.

1970: Growing pot.

2000: Growing pot belly.

1970: Watching John Glenn's historic flight with your parents.

2000: Watching John Glenn's historic flight with your children.

1970: Trying to look like Marlon Brando or Elizabeth Taylor.

2000: Trying NOT to look like Marlon Brando or Elizabeth Taylor.

1970: Seeds and stems.

2000: Roughage.

1970: Popping pills, smoking joints.

2000: Popping joints.

1970: Hoping for a BMW.

2000: Hoping for a BM.

1970: The Grateful Dead.

2000: Dr. Kevorkian.

1970: Getting out to a new, hip joint.

2000: Getting a new hip joint.

1970: Rolling Stones.

2000: Kidney stones.

1970: Being called into the principal's office.

2000: Calling the principal's office.

# J

**obs Available**

## **St. Michael's Hospital/University of Toronto Anatomic Pathologists**

St. Michael's Hospital, a Catholic tertiary care teaching hospital, in downtown Toronto, affiliated with the University of Toronto, is recognized for its excellence and leadership in the prevention and treatment of heart disease, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of trauma victims, and inner city health. Through the new Wellesley Central Site, it is also a recognized leader in the care and the treatment of people living with HIV and AIDS and cystic fibrosis. We are a values driven organization committed to patient care, education and research. To our staff we offer a comprehensive benefits package, educational support and opportunities for professional development.

The Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, Division of Pathology is recruiting two full-time academic anatomic pathologists. Expertise in the following areas is desirable: gynaecologic pathology, gastrointestinal pathology and cytology. Commitment to develop independent and/or collaborative research activities is an important determinant. The selected candidate will be involved in teaching activities and be eligible for appointment at the appropriate academic rank in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto.

Applicants must have the FRCPC qualifications in Anatomical Pathology or equivalent and must be eligible for licensure in the Province of Ontario. Applications including Curriculum Vitae and 3 names of references should be sent on or before **2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2000** to Dr. Linda Sugar, Acting Chief, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, Division of Pathology, St. Michael's Hospital, 30 Bond Street, Toronto, ON M5B 1W8, Tel: 416-

864-5858; Fax: 416-864-5648; E-Mail: [sugarl@smh.toronto.on.ca](mailto:sugarl@smh.toronto.on.ca).

## **University of Toronto Faculty Positions**

The Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto (<http://www.utoronto.ca/LabMedPathobiology>) is seeking applicants for six full-time faculty positions either non-tenure or tenure-stream at the rank of Assistant Professor available July 1, 2001. We are particularly interested in individuals working in the areas of molecular and biochemical mechanisms of disease and in biotechnology. Two of these positions are directed exclusively at candidates working in the broad area of microbiology including virology and parasitology. Candidates must have an MD or a PhD degree or equivalent, have completed significant postdoctoral training, and have an established track record of high quality research. Exceptional candidates with established funded research programs and a rank of Associate Professor may be considered as well. Teaching experience at the undergraduate and graduate level is an important asset.

The successful candidate is expected to participate actively in graduate and undergraduate teaching programs, maintain a well-funded independent research program and interact with other investigators at the University campus and the major affiliated teaching hospitals.

Applicants should submit curriculum vitae, description of their research accomplishments and the focus of their planned research program and the names of three referees by **2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2000** to the Chair, Academic Search Committee, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Room 110, 100 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1L5.

## **Jobs Wanted**

### **Research Assistant/Laboratory Technician**

Teresa Maria DeVeyre is looking for a position as a research assistant or lab technician. She has worked in various departments: chemistry, hematology, microbiology (DNA probing), performing various assay for the diagnosis of a patient's clinical condition. If you have a position available and would like a copy of her CV see Barb in Dr. Manley's office.

### **WORK STUDY PROGRAM FALL/WINTER 2000-2001**

Are those odd little jobs just piling up in your office? Would you be just a little less overworked if you could hire someone to do all the stuff you just can't find the time to do yourself? Well, Work Study has the solution!

The Work Study Program at Queen's University is designed to assist students, who can demonstrate financial need, find a part-time job on campus. Students must be registered in at least a 60% course load (i.e., 3.0 credits for undergraduates, or full-time for graduates) during the fall/winter sessions to be eligible to apply for the program.

The maximum entitlement under the fall/winter sessions of the program is \$2000. At a rate of \$8.00/hr, this translates into a total of 250 hours of employment within the fall/winter sessions or about 10 hrs per week. If students put in more hours than their entitlements allow, it is the employer's responsibility to pay the full cost of that portion of the salary that exceeds the students' entitlements.

The Work Study Program pays 75% of the student's salary -- as the employer you are expected to pay 25% or two dollars an hour.

We would therefore like to encourage all faculty and staff to start thinking about any types of jobs they may have for students during this time and get the word out to us! Please don't wait until the last minute! These

students will be looking for jobs as early as August 28, 2000.

If you would like more information or would like to post a job, just visit our Website at <http://www.careers.queensu.ca/workstudyframe.htm>

Liann Joannette, Employment Assistant, Career Services, 533-6000 ext. 74044. Email: <[ldj@post.queensu.ca](mailto:ldj@post.queensu.ca)>

## **G** rants and Such

Grants have grown to such a huge page of the newsletter that we have split them off into a **separate supplement** to the newsletter. All researchers & faculty will receive the supplement as well as any one else who wants it. Otherwise the rest of the subscribers get everything but.

There are 18 pages for August.

These are available on our web site:

<http://www.path.queensu.ca/queens/grants.htm>

## **R** ichardson Research Seminars

**Summer Term 2000**

Tuesdays at 4:00 pm, Richardson Amphitheatre  
Cancelled for the summer. Back in September.

## **G** raduate News

Two new graduate student representatives will be needed for the upcoming academic year. There is usually one representative from Botterell Hall and one from the Richardson Lab/ Syl & Molly Apps Wing. If you would like an idea of what is involved, please contact Deb Greer or Jordan Hansford who have been the reps for the 1999/2000 year. If you are interested, please submit your

name to Barbara Saunders, Queen's extension 74884.

Once again, it is time to recruit an Administrative Teaching Assistant for the Pathology 499 Life Sciences Research Project Course in the Department of Pathology. Please keep in mind that, should you be interested in this position, it is important to discuss your plans with your thesis supervisor to see if he/she thinks they are feasible, given your other responsibilities.

The administrative TA will assist with the organization of PATH 420 by booking student seminar and defence dates; participating on examining committees; and, monitoring the progress of student projects.

To apply, please submit a C.V and approximately one paragraph of text stating why you think you are qualified for this position, to David Lillicrap. His mailbox is in Room 201 of Richardson Lab. His e-mail address is: [lillicrap@cliff.path.queensu.ca](mailto:lillicrap@cliff.path.queensu.ca)

Application Deadline: August 23, 2000

## **P**ostgraduate News

### QUEEN'S PATHOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAMS - RCPSC ACCREDITATION

During the past academic year, each of the four pathology training programs at Queen's (General and Anatomical pathology; Neuropathology; Hematopathology) was reviewed as part of the Accreditation process of all Queen's postgraduate medical education training programs by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). The entire process is briefly outlined below.

Detailed pre-survey documents for each program outlining administrative structure, goals and objectives, content and organization, academic and scholarly aspects and resident evaluation were prepared and submitted to the RCPSC in late spring 1999. These were reviewed by respective Specialty Committees at the RCPSC with input provided to the on-site surveyors. RCPSC survey teams reviewed each program on-site during the first week in October 1999. Each program survey included meetings with the program director, teaching faculty, residency training committee members and residents. This was supplemented with review of various in-house documentation and a tour of the physical plant. Except for the General and Anatomical pathology review in which there was a short delay due to sudden illness by the reviewer, a verbal report of the strengths and weaknesses of each program and the survey teams recommendation regarding accreditation status (approval, approval with supplemental review required, notice of intent to withdraw approval) was reported to the program director within 24 hours. Formal written reports from each survey team were subsequently received by each program from the RCPSC in mid November 1999, again outlining strengths and weaknesses and an accreditation status recommendation. Written submissions by each program in response to these survey reports were requested by and submitted to the RCPSC by mid December 1999. This documentation along with the survey team's recommendations were finally reviewed by the RCPSC accreditation council at a meeting in Ottawa in January 2000 for final review and accreditation status approval. These results were eventually communicated officially in writing to individual programs in late March 2000.

RCPSC accreditation status for the Queen's pathology programs is as follow: Anatomical Pathology - Full approval; General Pathology - Inactive; Hematopathology - Inactive; Neuropathology - Inactive. The inactive designation reflects the fact the at the time of the survey no residents were registered in these programs. An internal review of an inactive program by the PGME committee is mandated within one year of program re-activation. With the re-activation of the General Pathology program in July 2000, an internal review will follow in the spring of 2001.



The next on-site RCPCSC accreditation review is scheduled for 2005. If a training program is still inactive at the time of the 2005 on-site survey, accreditation can be withdrawn.

David Hurlbut  
Director, Postgraduate Education

EXEMPTED from the GST levy are the following items:

1. Printing on the Libraries' laser printing stations (the cost will remain at 10 cents per page).
2. Documents obtained via interlibrary loan or document delivery services (because the Libraries do not recover direct costs).  
These items will remain at \$3.00 per article.
3. Stauffer Plus cashcards purchased on Queen's accounts.
4. Photocopying or microform printing requests where the cost is being charged to a Queen's account code.

~~~~~  
~~

Queen's University Libraries - News Releases  
Wednesday, 28 June 2000

<http://library.queensu.ca/libdocs/news/2000jun28.htm>

~~~~~

**GST Levy Required on Photocopying and Microform Printing as of July 1, 2000**

~~~~~  
~

Effective 1 July 2000, Queen's University Libraries will be required to pay GST on photocopies and microform printouts (excluding items obtained through interlibrary loan/document delivery) which have been made by, or supplied to, "external" patrons. The Libraries have been informed that "external" patrons is deemed to include all patrons -- whether they be students, staff, faculty or persons not affiliated with the University -- who are paying for photocopying or microform-printing by cash, cheque, debit or credit card. In other words, the only patrons who can be exempted from the GST levy are those who are charging the cost of their copying to a Queen's university account code.

There were 2,235,153 photocopies made on the self-serve photocopiers in Douglas and Stauffer Libraries, alone, for the 1999/2000 fiscal year. This would have resulted in a GST payment of almost \$16,000. Given that Queen's Libraries has been asked to cut its 2000/2001 operating budget by two percent, the Libraries cannot now absorb the new, additional cost of a GST payment on photocopying and microform printing.

~~~~~

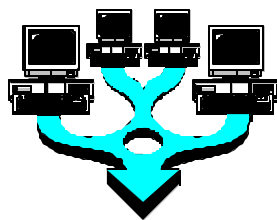
Therefore, Queen's Libraries regrets to announce that, as of July 1:

1. The cost of photocopying using the Stauffer Plus cashcard will increase to 11 cents per page.
2. Similarly, the cost of printing on self-serve microform reader/printers using the Stauffer Plus cashcard will increase to 11 cents per page.
3. Coin-operated photocopiers and microform reader/printers will cost 15 cents per page (currently, the cost varies between 10 and 20 cents per page).

~~~~~

# N

## etwork News



### Anti-virus software:

Over the last 6 weeks or so we've had reports of all kinds of problems with Iomega ZIP drives. It turns out that the cause was our new antivirus software, windows NT, and internet explorer not getting along with it.

The quick solution is to tell the Norton AntiVirus not to scan floppy drives (this includes the zip drive). If I haven't come around and fixed yours then you can actually turn off the feature in question yourself.

### Fixing the NAV/Zip drive problem

-Doubleclick on the golden NAV shield on the bottom right of your toolbar, select configure  
-file system realtime protection, advanced, floppies and Uncheck the floppy setting box.

You'll have to shutdown and restart your computer for this fix to take effect in most cases.

Antivirus files are created roughly once a week and our software needs to have its data files updated on at least a monthly basis. You may sometimes see a popup window stating your antivirus files are old and out of date. I haven't figured out how to do this yet so the NAV program must be updated manually. I usually will do this if I happen to stop by but you can do it if you wish, as well.

### Updating Norton AntiVirus files

Doubleclick on the golden NAV shield on the bottom right of your toolbar.

Click on liveupdate then after a few seconds, on the Next button.

The update will be gathered from a server and installed on your system in about 1-2 minutes click on the finish button and then on EXIT  
All done!

The **Library Database Project** is in the process of configuring desktop access across the department. Manuals have been distributed and Chris is coming around to people giving short demos. The current implementation is strictly a windows file sharing system. Allowing web based access may require another summer project in the future. At present this is only accessible to those with MSOffice97 and the MS Access database program. MSOffice2000 does not work.



### Article Submissions

**SUBMISSION DATE:** Pathology News will be mailed to all faculty, housestaff, graduate students, and anyone who requests it on the Friday following the first Monday of the month. The next deadline date for submission will be **Tuesday September 5th**

**Send items (in order of preference) by: 1) email, 2) floppy disk, 3) paper mail, or 4) FAX.**

# A umni News

New e-mail address for **Michael Rutherford** who is now in Sudbury: <mrutherford@hrsrb.on.ca >

## **Sergio A. Bencosme, M.D., Ph.D.**

Sergio A. Bencosme, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Pathology at Queen's University between 1959 and 1977, celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in his native Dominican Republic last April 27<sup>th</sup>. Turning 80 in excellent physical and mental health is quite an accomplishment in itself for virtually anyone. But this, of course, is not nearly enough for Sergio. To wit, he currently holds the Directorship of two major Hospital and University departments in Santiago de los Caballeros, where he resides, and is directly and actively involved in the planning of a sweeping reform, taking place at the central government level, that involves most aspects of technical and scientific education, as well as health care delivery in the Dominican Republic. His work schedule and array of responsibilities would prove physically and mentally exhausting to a person half his age.



Who is Sergio Bencosme? He was born on April 27, 1920, in Montecristi, Dominican Republic, and until age 12 was schooled in Belgium, acquiring a European style education which later shaped many of his views and philosophy in life. In 1938 he completed his high school education in Santo Domingo, followed by the first 5 years of medical studies in the University of Santo Domingo. In 1944 he and his young wife, Berta Bencosme, moved to Canada, where Sergio obtained his medical degree at the Université de Montreal in 1947. This was quickly followed by a Masters degree and a Ph.D. degree in Pathology, at McGill University, Montreal, in 1948 and 1950, respectively. During this time, he was the recipient of the Douglas Scholarship, and later became an awardee of a Medical Research Council of Canada fellowship. Sergio and Berta started at that time a family that would eventually comprise five children: Rosanna, Yolanda, Violeta, Rolando and Humberto.



After graduation, Dr. Bencosme was appointed Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pathology, University of Ottawa between 1951 and 1953, Associate Professor, Dept. of Pathology, Queen's University between 1953 and 1957, worked as an Assistant Pathologist in the Dept. of Pathology, UCLA, between 1957 and 1959, collaborating with Harrison Latta, returned to Queen's as a tenured Associate Professor in 1959, and became a tenured Professor of Pathology, also at Queen's University, between 1965 and the time of his return to his native Dominican Republic, in 1977. During those 26 years,

Dr. Bencosme distinguished himself as a researcher and experimental pathologist utilizing cutting edge tools, at that time, such as histochemistry, electron microscopy, immunohistochemistry and radioimmunoassay. In this period of time, he and his many collaborators produced seminal work in areas of pancreatic islet, kidney, gastrointestinal endocrine cell, and atrial natriuretic factor pathobiology and pathology. This extensive body of work found outlet in over 160 publications, mostly in prestigious peer-reviewed journals, and resulted in the Ph.D. Theses of his graduate students which included, chronologically, Juan Lechago, Adolfo de Bold, and Mercedes de Bold. He also hosted and trained a great number of pathologists and other physicians, not only from Canada, but from many other countries, such as Argentina, Mexico, Taiwan, and the United States, among others, many of which obtained their Masters degrees under his supervision. These individuals include Drs. Sidney Lazarus, Adolfo Martínez-Palomo, Jason Berger and Olga Pulido. In 1968, while still in Canada, he was condecorated as a Knight of the “Order of Merit Duarte, Sánchez y Mella” by the Dominican government.



Also while still in Canada, Sergio Bencosme engineered the proceedings that would result in the construction and outfitting of the Institute of Biomedical Studies, National University Pedro Henríquez Ureña, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He was the first Director of such institute between 1973 and 1977, and co-director of the same after returning to his country, until 1978. Upon his return to his native Dominican Republic in 1977, after a brilliant career that would have satisfied many an academician contemplating retirement, Sergio started a new career as educator and policy-maker which has spanned nearly a quarter of a century and does not give any signs of slowing down perceptibly! Since his return, he has published an additional 130 articles, dealing with a multitude of subjects and issues which span from pathology to medical education and transfer of technology between the first and third world countries. He was also appointed, and currently functions as, Director of Clinical Investigations of the Regional University Hospital José María Cabral y Báez (1978), and Director of the Center for Human and Experimental Biology of the Catholic University Madre y Maestra (1983). In addition, between 1987 and 1993 he was the Director of the Masters Program in Investigation in Medical Sciences, in the same university. As a result of the latter program, a number of younger physicians in the Dominican Republic, spanning a wide gamut of specialties, obtained their Masters Degree in Medical Research and became collaborators of Bencosme in a wide variety of projects. These students were Drs. Humberto Bencosme, Robert Tejada, Angélica Aybar, Cristina Castellanos, Ariosto Rosado, and Maria Z. Núñez. His many contributions were acknowledged in 1987 when he was bestowed the National Award of Sciences by the National Academy of Sciences of the Dominican Republic.

This schematic account of Sergio Bencosme’s career, understandably limited by space requirements, does not include a large number of invited presentations, honorary memberships, invited contributions, and positions held in foreign institutions, many of which occurred after his return to the Dominican Republic. Not even the many pages that his complete Curriculum vitae would fill, however, would do justice to the whole lifework (still in progress) and contributions of Sergio. He indeed apported a significant number of pieces of knowledge in experimental pathology and of ideas in medical education as a result of his seeming tireless work. But, perhaps more significantly, through his fascinating personality and approach, he inspired and enabled many others to pursue their own dreams and ideas, to discover new knowledge, and to contribute well beyond what he could have contributed had he worked in isolation,

by himself. His personality found an outlet and a means of projecting itself through the intellectual and material support that he generously made available to many others.

It is no surprise, therefore, that Sergio Bencosme did not spend his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday alone, or merely surrounded by his extensive family. A festschrift was organized in Santo Domingo, on April 28, 2000, under the leadership of former students Santiago Collado and Adolfo de Bold to punctuate such celebration. This event counted with the participation of dozens of former and current disciples, collaborators, and academic colleagues, many of whom came from faraway places, such as Canada, Mexico and the United States, to pay homage to Sergio. And many others, who could not be present for multiple reasons, send their best wishes. As part of the celebrations, a plaque was unveiled at the Institute of Biomedical Studies, National University Pedro Henríquez Ureña, in Santo Domingo, in recognition to the essential role that Bencosme played in the birth and initial conduction of such institution. But, beyond that and perhaps more significantly, there was an atmosphere of joy and warmth, of camaraderie, of togetherness, that told more about the human qualities of this great scientist and educator than any extensive homilies which could have been, but mercifully were not, delivered on such auspicious occasion.



Submitted by Dr. J. Lechago