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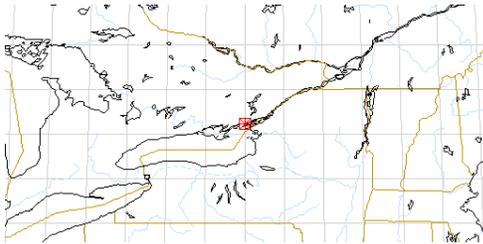
# Pathology News

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Vol. 9#02

February 2002

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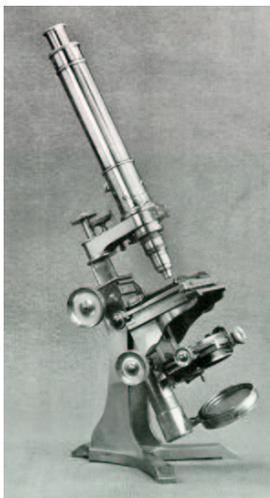
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We publish only that which is  
submitted!

(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

### Queen's Pathology Reunion, September 21, 22, 2001

Please join us and your Queen's colleagues from past and present at our 2<sup>nd</sup> Queen's Pathology Reunion. We are developing an entertaining and informative social and scientific program with the participants being current or past members of the Queen's Pathology worldwide community. The Reunion will accompany the annual **Ontario Association of Pathologists Meeting**, which is being held on **September 20-22**. You should consider attendance at both meetings, as the programs will be closely coordinated. You may choose to arrive in Kingston a day or two early to enjoy our increasingly charming historic city with a vibrant and lively downtown and a large number of interesting museums. We have excellent travel connections, which will allow all North Americans to reach home by Sunday night.

We all have reason to celebrate together. Our experiences in Kingston together within our department have shaped our professional lives and all of us in turn have left our imprint on the department and our contemporaries. The department also has reason to celebrate. Since our last reunion in 1993 we have hired some outstanding new faculty, totally renovated our clinical laboratories and combined excellence in research, industrial lab efficiency, educational innovation, and the sophisticated yet practical use of imaging.

Please reserve September 20-22 on your calendars. It is an opportunity to enjoy the scientific program of the Ontario Association of Pathologists and to come together as colleagues and friends to celebrate our common experience and the achievements of the department.

You can e-mail us at:

[latimer@cliff.path.queensu.ca](mailto:latimer@cliff.path.queensu.ca) for further information. We intend to send out a broad mailing to all Queen's Pathology Alumni in early March.

### Unexpected Departures

Last month I promised to expand on the unexpected departures in this 2001-2002 academic year by Drs. Monique Arquint and Allen Fletcher. Both Monique and Allen completed their General Pathology residencies within Queen's and were so highly considered that they were hired back within the department as soon as possible. Monique came to us as a resident after a stellar PhD thesis on the "Molecular Cloning of Myelin-Associated Glycoprotein" and postgraduate training in interventional cytopathology at the MD Anderson Hospital. She had had two years prior staff experience at St. Paul's Hospital. During her one year at Queen's Monique provided expertise in cytology and was a superb Director of the Perth/Smiths Falls Laboratory. Monique left on October 15<sup>th</sup> for St. Mary's, a medium-sized community hospital in Kitchener-Waterloo, to have a broader range of experience in pathology and the ability to directly initiate an active interventional cytopathology program. We wish Monique well and are now in the late stages of completing the difficult task of hiring her replacement.

Al Fletcher has had a greater length of experience with our department of Pathology than any of our current faculty members. Al began his residency program here in General Pathology in 1970 and replaced Dr. Howard Steele as our expert in cyto and gynecologic pathology and the Head of our busy cytology laboratory. He also provided expertise in pediatric and perinatal pathology and has been highly respected as the Laboratory Director of Lennox and Addington County General Hospital in Napanee since 1974. Al will be leaving on June 30, 2002 at the tender age of 57. He now has an infant grandchild Henry born to his daughter Pat and a variety of talents that he would like to apply to public service. With

Allen's permission we will be having a departmental party to celebrate his 32 years within the department.

Paul N. Manley, MD

## **F**or Your Info

### **The M. Daria Haust Trust Fund Application: Opportunities for Special Travel**

Applications are once again invited for the above mentioned fund. The Terms of Reference are to provide educational leaves for faculty members with primary appointments for continuing education and research. The Committee of Iain Young, Dave Lillicrap and Susan Cole will focus on those leaves which will enable faculty to significantly increase their expertise in a particular area or to learn a special technique. These funds will be seen as supplementary to existing travel and research funds and can only be expended by the individual faculty member.

The application should consist of a one page letter defining the purpose of the trip and the value to the individual faculty member and to the department and a separate detailed estimate of the expenses. Applications may be made now for the academic year 2002-2003 and should be submitted to my office by **April 15<sup>th</sup>**.

The maximum single grant this year will be \$5,000.

*P.N. Manley, MD*

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### **Annual Reports for Clinical Faculty**

The Annual Faculty Report form is due in the Faculty Office by March 28, 2002 for the period 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001 along with an updated curriculum vitae. Please submit to me both the report, with **all** sections completed, and curriculum vitae **in duplicate on paper** so that we can retain one copy for our records. In addition, please put an **electronic copy** in Word format on the Pathology network under: `g/sec/annrep/2001/lastname`. If you do

not have access to the network please submit a disk with your Annual Report at the time you submit your Report.

I must prepare an appraisal form for each faculty member and include it with the Annual Faculty Report. In order to comply with this request, our internal deadline for completion has to be moved up. I will set up an appointment to meet each of you for approximately 1/2 hour between **March 18 and March 22**. Please note that your completed Annual Faculty Report, teaching evaluations, and current curriculum vitae should be available to me for review **at least one day** prior to our scheduled appointment.

The annual report form is posted on the Faculty of Health Sciences website: <http://meds.queensu.ca/reports/arbs.htm> or can be accessed as a Word document through our departmental network under <g:/sec/annrep/2001clinicalareportform.doc>.

If you have any questions or concerns, I would be pleased to discuss them with you.

P.N. Manley, MD

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### Canada Research Chairs

There has been substantial concern expressed by several faculty members about the original deadline of January 15, 2002 for the submission of Canada Research Chair (CRC) proposals and the ensuing challenge of formulating high-quality applications.

In view of this concern and the requirement of fair and equitable peer-review of the CRC proposals by the Research Advisory Committee you are advised that:

1. The deadline has been extended to **February 15, 2002**;
2. The guidelines for the CRC proposals remain in place, and;

3. The proposal needs to include the name of a potential candidate for the proposed CRC position and his/her curriculum vitae.
- 

### Nominations for Election of Staff to the Senate

Elections will be held in the months of February/March to elect a staff member to the Senate. Information about the work of the Senate and the election can be found on the secretariat web site:

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

If you are interested in being on the Senate or wish to nominate someone, completed forms should be returned directly to the University Secretary no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 22, 2002.

Any questions should be directed to the University Secretariat, telephone 533-6095. Georgina Moore, University Secretary, University Secretariat, B-400 Mackintosh-Corry, Tel: 533-6095.

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From: Nav Gill <NGill@RPSLAB.com>  
 To: "Newsletter (E-mail)"  
 <newsletter@cliff.path.queensu.ca>  
 Subject: Update Navdeep Gill  
 Date: Wed, 23 Jan 2002 15:39:13 -0700

Just wanted to give everyone some good news. Kiran and I had a baby boy (8lbs and 11 ounces on Jan 22). His name will be Arjun. Hope everyone is doing well.

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From Mike Wendleboe out BC way

We have once again moved. We bought a house on the ocean, so hopefully we "have arrived".

Michael still works at Nanaimo General Hospital. He has a 1/2 hour commute. We are in the midst of the major renovation so life is still

pretty chaotic. Our new address is in Ladysmith, BC with email mwendelboe@look.ca

# D r. Dexter's Corner

## COWS

### A Solution for the Busy Laboratory

Twenty years ago, research often revolved around laboratory animals. Rats were a favourite, and many seminal and important discoveries resulted. Other animals played a role, from monkeys to mice, all with tremendous benefit to our understanding of disease. Mice, both clothed and nude, played key roles in tumour pathology and ex-boxing mice (also known as knock-out mice), provide insight at molecular pathologic levels.

If there was but one word to describe current hospital laboratories, the word "busy" comes to mind. Efficiency and high productivity come at a price. Computerization, automation, and high put through stand alone bi-directional interfaced exotic machinery contribute significantly, but we do still need people. Verification, trouble-shooting, and problem solving is still the purview of the human brain.

There is some hope for relief on the horizon. In a recent paper entitled, "Can Cows Discriminate People by Their Faces", eight Holstein cows were trained five days a week for three months. The study showed that cows can, using multiple cues, discriminate and thereby recognize people with reasonable reproducibility. This innate ability could be applied in multiple laboratories to reduce tedious technologist screening activities. Bacterial colony recognition, AFB screening, malarial smears, and endless possibilities in cytology are but a few of delegatable tasks. Minor challenges are those of space. Most cows are bigger than people (personal observation). Some breeds are smaller, e.g. the Dexter cow - no relation. One might have to adapt to their habits of cud-chewing which could be a safety issue as food should not be consumed in the laboratory. Since most of it seems to be partially regurgitated it is somewhat of a moot point. Benefits include an endless supply of manure which allows for a separate source of income counterbalance Laboratory costs.



to



The journal Nature for November 8, 2001, brings us news that sheep have remarkable memories retaining discriminatory capacity for 50 objects for as long as two years without retraining. A major advantage would be size as sheep are smaller than cows (personal observation) and more could be used in limited lab space. Side benefits include a regular supply of wool, a factor to counter lab costs. A major safety issue, peculiar to larger labs, would be monitoring sheep activity as they tend to frolic. Counting sheep, as might be expected, has a soporific effect on other lab personnel and managers, a feature not so common with cows.



Pigeons have been used to recognize variances and are quite good at it. They tend to be reward-focussed and seed-eating would again be a safety issue. Quite apart from that, use

of multiple pigeons leads to distracting behaviour traits known as “cooing”. Billing, a process often associated, is on the other hand to be encouraged, as yet another source of income. Pigeons have other functions which were almost exploited in Britain a few decades ago. Between traffic delays and strikes, transportation of lab specimens was an inefficient process and a variety of planners thinking long and hard ( a major challenge!) came up with a scheme to use Homing Pigeons. Patient samples would be attached to Peter the Pigeon who would fly off from hospital ‘A’ to home to the processing laboratory at hospital ‘B’. This offered much in the way of benefit. Bird food was cheap. The downside was that the Pigeon handlers saw the pecuniary aspects right away and large sums could be won or lost on pigeon-racing. Pigeon poop contamination of specimens and Lab. Landing-sites was a negative factor although with time, guano could have commercial possibilities. Pigeons could only be used where birds of prey were infrequent. The Ornithologists, busily replenishing and reestablishing pairs of Peregrine falcons on city buildings, would seem to be at cross-purposes. Somehow the contract for Pigeon-based Regional Laboratory Specimen transfer did not take off.

There are some other possibilities I have not looked into yet. Dolphins are said to be quite smart and whales even more so, although they do get disorientated when they develop earaches.

The lab of the future will definitely look different and possibly quite idyllic. Green fields of pastoral beauty, blue skies and fresh air and the sound of waves breaking on a sandy shore would be my vision

D Dexter.

## **Notes from the Morgue**

The autopsy service continues to be busy with just shy of 300 post-mortems performed in 2001. There has been a shift in numbers from hospital-based deaths to Medicolegal and Forensic cases. This trend of falling numbers on the Hospital side of the service is increasing from year to year and is not restricted to Kingston. Other centres have documented similar patterns, some of which have been published (Halifax). Unfortunately reduced autopsy numbers do not always reflect reduced death numbers in hospital patients and therefore better treatment outcome.

There are multiple factors which contribute. More patients under palliative care may spend their last days at home. We do provide autopsies in certain circumstances where there is valid family and clinical interest but the challenge of logistics - paperwork, consents and transportation issues - is often too overwhelming at a time of family grief. It is however our responsibility to provide a timely and an appropriately informative report, usually through a supportive family physician, but occasionally through direct discussion with the family.

On the hospital front, one has usually considered the autopsy as a form of ultimate quality control. Correlation with in vivo clinical, laboratory and imaging studies with pathological findings is the major thrust. The pathology may reveal answers to vexing clinical issues or uncover the unexpected and it is from all of these that we learn. A necessary component is a suitable venue for case discussion, for there is limited value in pure intra-departmental review. The Medical Mortality Conference serves in part to achieve this. How useful and productive each meeting may be is entirely up to the enthusiasm of the protagonists but it is certainly a forum for meeting our educational mandate and that of patient care quality assurance. Although I have no hard data, it seems that death in the hospital is occurring in more

acute and serious disease states. Those patients with a slower tempo of disease may spend their final days at home or in a nursing home or hospice.

May this serve as a reminder to obtain autopsy consents, preferably a full consent, but if not, a limited one, for from the dead we can learn.

Turning to the Forensic Unit activities, there is no question that the numbers of cases are rising - indeed the experience is similar to that described in Halifax. A steady flow of Inquestable deaths from the penitentiaries keep the three Coroner's Pathologists busy. Suspicious and more complex cases are being referred to the Centre. Coincident with the activity increase, is the planning for morgue renovations with a focus on improved service and security. GM is providing an X-Ray unit and table gratis which will markedly improve radiologic assessment of cases. A lockable secure body storage area should obviate the need for police presence overnight. Better lighting (daylight equivalent fluorescence) should solve the omnipresent cherry-red carbon monoxide toxicity look of both the dieners, the deceased and the pathologists. The new high efficiency system installed widely around the hospital had this unfortunate effect on skin colour which was neither neutral nor daylight and led to false colouration to the eye or in pictures either film or digital. Apparently this is not a unique phenomenon and at least one other Forensic Unit has a similar problem. A quick fix is to turn off the lights and use the camera flash, but it does leave one in the dark somewhat.

Some years ago under the initiative of Dr Sally Ford, a bank of DNA blood samples was started. Using neonatal PKU type sample cards, it is easy to do requiring only a few drops of blood. It is a valuable resource. Digital photography provides a powerful tool in case documentation combined with security of the case record. Mechanisms for rapid and enriched relevant reporting are underway. Several cases and been fully reported and presented in less than three and in some two weeks from the PM., whether hospital or forensic.

Advances have indeed been made and continue in Autopsy pathology. Rokitansky would be proud! While the mix of case material on the Forensic side is wide and moderately bountiful, it would be right to enter a plea for a reduction in number of cases. Fewer accidents, fewer overdoses, few suspicious deaths could certainly serve as an indicator of a more healthy society.

D Dexter MD Jan 2002

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**G**rants'N'Such

The Grant supplement will no longer be included in paper form. It will only be available from the website listed below:

<http://www.path.queensu.ca/pathnews/grants.pdf>

If you spot a grant of interest, please print out ONLY THAT PAGE and not the entire document! Sometimes this file runs into 25 pages!

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#### **Recent Publications**

*Remember that a complete (or as complete as Kevin can make it) list of publications from 1995-2000 is available online at*

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

**R**ichardson Research  
Seminars  
**Department of Pathology**  
**Seminar Schedule 2001 - 2002**  
**Tuesdays @ 4:00 p.m.**  
**Richardson Amphitheater, Richardson**  
**Laboratory**

February 12	Angela Hui / Joanna Wojcik
February 19	Dr. Morag Park
February 26	Dr. Don Maurice (tentative)
March 5	Julie Yome / Julie Shaw
March 12	Dr. Trang Hoang
March 19	Patrick Smith / Donna Situ
March 26	Dr. Waheed Sangrar
April 2	Peter Truesdell
April 9	Jimson Wong / Catherine Lin
April 16	Kevin Weigl

## Jobs Available

I understand your department publishes a newsletter. We are interested in posting a Part-Time Student Position as soon as possible. The position is as follows:

Company: Cytochroma Inc.

Position: Part-Time Lab Helper  
Hours: 10 hours per week, 2 hours per day,  
flexible schedule. Rate of Pay: \$10.00/hour.

General Lab Duties:

- Media solution prep.
- Autoclaving
- Dish washing
- Racking tips, etc.
- Assisting Research Technicians

Contact: Karilene Montgomery Manager,  
Corporate Administration  
[karilene@cytochroma.com](mailto:karilene@cytochroma.com)

or Cytochroma Inc.  
116 Barrie Street, Suite 2424  
Bioscience Complex, Queen's University  
Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6  
CANADA

Thank you for your support.  
Pat Devlin 531-9995 Ext. 20

## Seeking Employment Summer Student

My name is Amy Neumann and I am currently in my third year at the University of Toronto completing a Forensic Biology double major and Honors Bsc. I am a graduate of K.C.V.I. high school and have lived in Kingston for more than 9 years.

At the end of my third year I would like to return home for the summer of 2002 and gain some laboratory experience. I am very interested in being able to participate in ongoing research or projects you may have.

As a third year biology student, I have been familiarized with many lab procedures including sterile techniques, lab culturing and plating and bacterial diagnostic tests and stains. An additional lab course in genetics and molecular biology included performing PCR, gel electrophoresis, DNA fingerprinting, as well as deducing linkage of four Drosophila genes after crossing flies up to an F2 generation. Also, I am currently in the midst of completing a full-year Human Osteology course.

My Professors often refer to their research, the techniques they used, and the conclusions they drew. I enjoy listening to them, and now I would like firsthand knowledge of how research and experiments are conducted, and the reasoning that goes into them.

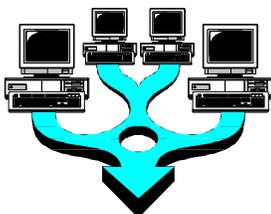
If you are accepting undergraduates, please consider me this summer. I am a responsible

and hard working student who wants to learn. I can be reached at amyliane@canada.com or at 905-820-3164, and I will be in Kingston for my reading week in February from the 15th-20th (inclusive). I would be more than happy to meet with you, at your convenience.

Sincerely, Amy Neumann

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## Network News




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### Monthly Cleaning Tips

**Monitors:** When cleaning your monitors of the accumulated fingerprints and gunk... it's a good idea to turn the monitor off first to avoid electrostatic shocks. Use a cloth or paper towel wetted with cleaner (windex) or water and wipe it down. Give it a minute to dry before turning it back on.

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### HOWTO Documents

A new addition to our web site <http://www.path.queensu.ca/howto/> makes available step-by-step HOWTO documents relating to the computer network in the department.

At the moment, there are 4 documents covering: how to use webmail for cliff and clinlabs, how to create adobe acrobat documents on your own, and how to change your popmail password from home.

### Email Traffic: (number of pieces in and out)

January 1995: 2368  
 January 1996: 3180  
 January 1997: 8141  
 January 1998: 8842  
 January 1999: ? (lost data)  
 January 2000: 19277

January 2001: 22884

The above lists the number of pieces of email in and out, and in general, they are getting bigger as more and more people send more and larger attachments.

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### Software upgrades:

All workstations are currently running with netscape navigator v4.77 and internet explorer v5.5.

Over the near future we'll be bumping up to **netscape v4.79** (mostly bug fixes and security patches) and **internet explorer 6.0** (mostly security patches). The six library machines were upgraded to this new software on January 8th.

Also recently done in late January - early February was a Patient Care System client upgrade, as well as many microsoft operating system patches, and office patches.

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### LISImage

New additions: Museum plastinated specimens are having the textual case information added as a link to the case page.



Date	#cases	#photos	Total Gb
2002 Feb 04	1984	8197	9.1
2002 Jan 02	1886	7706	7.4
2001 Dec 03	1853	7511	7.0
2001 Nov 08	1743	6765	6.0
2001 Oct 04	1632	6342	5.1
2001 Sept 12	1529	5988	4.5

You can read more about the LISImage system at

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

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**WEBMAIL:**

**now available from email accounts on  
cliff.path.queensu.ca and  
clinlabs.path.queensu.ca**

Finally! I have found a stable and feature-full webmail program to run on our web server. What's webmail? It enables you to read and



send email from your cliff.path.queensu.ca (or your clinlabs.path.queensu.ca) account, from any web browser on the Internet. Very handy if you are not at home with your own popmail client email program (ie Eudora or Pegasus).

You will need to know your popmail password. I've emailed all of you a few months back with this info but can look it up again for anyone who wants it.

A word of warning for cliff.path.queensu.ca accounts:

\*\*\*\* When accessing the webmail system, your local email program must be turned off or else you will be denied access from the web side (another reason to make sure you log off your computer Mon-Fri after work as this will shut down the local pegasus email program). Also this has been through only a few weeks of testing, so I am still calling it an "experimental service", so don't be surprised if it disappears or stops working once in awhile.

**How to access "Squirrel Webmail"**

Start your web browser and go to <http://www.path.queensu.ca/>

Look for a picture of a squirrel for cliff or for clinlabs in the lower left corner of the menu (you may need to scroll down the page a bit). It opens a new window, put in your name (your lastname or whatever your email name is, eg kell) and

popmail password (see notes above.. this is normally \*not\* your workstation login password at some time in the future they will be integrated and synchronized)..

You are in!

\*\*\*\*\* Don't forget to "signout" of the webmail system when you are done otherwise the next person along will be able to access your email.

**How to use Squirrel Webmail:**

This may require some tutorials and I am hoping to have a couple of sessions in Rich Amphitheatre (as yet unplanned) but it is fairly user friendly in that you can figure most of it out yourself. Mail that you read via webmail will remain on the mail server unless you specifically delete it.

It can access your new mail and when configured, access your "old" mail folders as well. It cannot tap into your existing address books or distribution lists.

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**Creating Adobe Acrobat PDF files from your workstation**

We now have the ability for each and every PC user on our network to print from any program they want to a virtual printer that will automatically generate an adobe acrobat format .pdf file for them.

For free.

Did I mention automatically?

So for all of those out there who have in the past send files to me for conversion... \*contact me\* and I'll set you up in 2 minutes.

Basically the process is:

you open a document in whatever program you choose the printer 'pdfprinter on cdserver1'



print then go to your newly mapped drive P (done in the setup mentioned above) and retrieve your pdf file, moving it to your storage area and renaming it to what you want (it comes out of the process named with the date and time, eg jan25-121058.pdf)

**Why adobe acrobat PDF?**

It is a worldwide document standard that we use when publishing information so that it appears formatted the same as the original (eg web based HTML changes it formatting depending on your screen resolution). We currently use it for all of our Queens and KGH manuals, our monthly newsletter Pathnews, CV's and many many others.

**Buy Sell and Trade House for sale**

Nice starter 1000 square foot end unit townhouse in Kingston West. Know anyone looking for a starter home for \$106,900? For details see Kevin Kell or <http://www.mls.ca/> and MLS# 2600549

