

# PATHOLOGY inSIGHT

Alumni Bulletin of Wake Forest University School of Medicine Department of Pathology

# Fifty Years of Comparative Medicine



When he came here in 1957, **Dr. Thomas B. Clarkson** was hired to develop a comparative medicine and veterinary pathology program, and to provide veterinary care for the experimental animals that were here at the time

The latter part was pretty easy back then, he said: "We had six dogs and ten rats." Dr. Clarkson has accomplished quite a lot by any measure. He's done all that he set out to do and more in the last 50 years, and he's seen a lot of changes. "I've worked for every dean this institution has ever had," he said. He's been especially happy with his colleagues here, and recalls with pleasure his work with Robert Prichard, Coy Carpenter, and Richard Janeway – among many others.

Under his leadership, the Comparative Medicine program grew in size and reputation, and the faculty are considered leaders in research using animal models of human disease. The training program he started has been funded continuously by

the NIH since 1959, and Dr. Clarkson is proud of both the program and the trainees he has worked with over the years. "Seven of them have been president of ACLAM (American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine)," he noted. "And fourteen have created departments or programs at other schools."

Another achievement that Dr. Clarkson finds particularly satisfying is the development of the Friedberg Campus. The research animals were originally housed in a vivarium in the Hanes Building; a pigeon colony was built at the Graylyn estate in 1960 or so, but the neighbors were

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THE SPRING EDITION

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MAY 15, 2007

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# Dr. Venkata Challa retires, starts new career

Dr. Venkata Challa is a man of boundless enthusiasm and many strong convictions. He retired last summer as director of neuropathology. Not quite 59 when he retired, Dr. Challa has no plans to quit working. In fact, his current projects include a new consulting laboratory, which he started in part to make some money, of course – but also to "see what life is like for pathologists out in the world."

After a teaching and research career in anatomic pathology, he reports that he's very much enjoying the experience of life as a clinical pathologist as well as learning about the administrative and managerial aspects of a clinical practice.

Which is not to say he didn't enjoy and value his 28 years in academic medicine here at Wake Forest School of Medicine. "My perpetual joy in coming to work every day was in training young people to be pathologists," he said. The opportunity to teach, to do research, to push the envelope and discover new things, "these are the things I cherish." Dr. Challa's been teaching and conducting research since the beginning of his career, and the results of his

24-year association with investigators in the radiology department, in particular Dr. Dixon Moody, contributed greatly to the understanding of the effects of heart surgery on the brain, the degeneration of white matter in old age, and the nature of Alzheimer's disease.

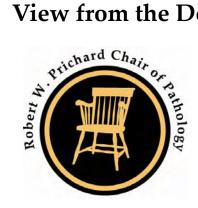
He credits his colleagues and mentors for they support along the way, and considers it a particular joy, honor, and privilege to have worked with Dr. Robert Prichard. "I had great teachers who inspired

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# View from the Department Chair



As the fourth person to serve as chair of this department -- and the first Robert W. Prichard Chair of Pathology --I am pleased and honored to lead us into the twenty-first century.

For the last two-thirds of a century, the Department of Pathology has been dedicated to serving the community by providing diagnostic care; conducting advanced research; and educating medical students, residents, and fellows in the discipline of pathology and its numerous subspecialties. In addition to Clinical

and Anatomic Pathology, the department now includes three research sections: Comparative Medicine, Lipid Sciences, and Tumor Biology. We offer residencies, fellowships, graduate degrees, and postdoctoral training.

Our department is staffed by more than 50 faculty members and more than 125 technical and administrative staff. We have trained nearly 500 professionals over the years, and our alumni are working in clinical, research, and industry settings all over the country -- in fact, all over the world.

We thought it was time to reach out to all of you who have been part of this department and share our accomplishments and let you know about our current activities. We also want to hear from you. Please write, fax, call or email us with any news you'd like to share with your colleagues!

- A. Julian Garvin, MD PhD

#### Challa, from page 1

me," he said. He singled out Dr. D.S. Rao, his professor at Osmania University in India, and Dr. William R. Markesbery at the University of Kentucky for sparking a lifelong interest in research and publishing. "I hope in my own humble way to have encouraged some students," he

While he was certainly looking forward to having the time and energy to devote to new projects, creating an opportunity for a younger neuropathologist - a specialty with relatively few vacancies - was an additional factor in his decision to retire when he did.

Despite strong political leanings and a previous run for the NC Senate, Dr. Challa has no current plans to run again or get more deeply involved in politics. "We have a great democracy here," he says, but notes that "certain things can be tweaked." He'll tell you all about them if you ask, and his knowledge of both local and global politics is extensive.

Dr. Challa considers himself both a conservative and an environmentalist, and one way he continues to practice his politics is to use a motor scooter for much of his around-town transportation. "It gets 86 miles to the gallon," he reports, and adds that part of the reason he uses the scooter is to challenge those who are able to do so to cut down on their gasoline usage by walking, bicycling, or using a scooter or moped for everyday needs. Some of the mopeds, he points out, get up to 150 miles per gallon.

Dr. Challa has been married for 36 years to Dr. Surya Challa, a practicing psychiatrist at the VA Hospital. "She is my main motivator," he says of her. "Having a stable family life is a great blessing." He also has a son, a daughter, and two grandchildren.

His advice to young pathologists? "Learn all the fundamentals very carefully. You can't learn everything in pathology - there's just too much out there."

#### Clarkson, from page 1

not very happy about it. The researchers began housing their pigeons, and then later some monkeys, at a farm owned by Dr. Coy Carpenter. In 1963, Dean Manson Meads halted that arrangement and gave them thirty days to find a new location.

Twenty-two days later Dr. Clarkson found the Friedberg Church Road location, and was able to secure funding to purchase the 110-acre site, build office and laboratory space, and move the growing assortment of research animals – along with the faculty – to the new campus in 1964. It now houses one of the largest non-human primate colonies in the country, and will soon become home to a group of vervet monkeys from UCLA - a large, pedigreed group that will be extremely helpful to researchers looking at genetic diseases.

It was something of an accident that brought Dr. Clarkson here in 1957. He was in Winston-Salem visiting his friend Dr. Stan King, a former colleague from the S.E. Massengill company in Tennessee. Much to his surprise, he said, "Stan had arranged a visit with a search committee. On a Saturday."

It went well, apparently; Dr. Coy Carpenter invited him to join the pathology faculty, and he did - eventually recruiting the other members of his atherosclerosis research team at Massengill. "Coming here was the best decision I ever made," he said.

Dr. Clarkson stepped down as Chair of Comparative Medicine in 1997; the department then became part of the Pathology Department. "It would have been logical to merge earlier," he said, given the long history of collaboration among the faculty of the two departments. He doesn't miss his administrative duties, though, and has no plans to

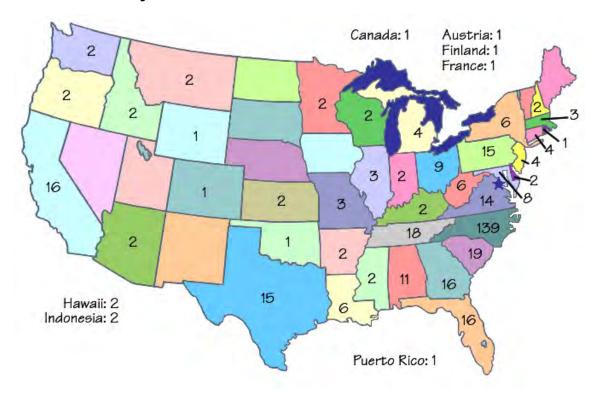
"My science is all that matters to me," he said, "and I have never enjoyed academia more than I have these last 10 years."

#### FIND US ONLINE:

http://www1.wfubmc.edu/pathology/alumni/

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### Where are they now?



Of the 376 former residents, fellows, and graduate students we were able to locate for this mailing, we found that most are living and working in the southeastern United States; however, we found quite a few in all but ten states (and one territory) as well as in five other countries. If you change your address, or you want to send us an alumni notes update, please write, call, or email us! <a href="mailto:pathalumni@wfubmc.edu">pathalumni@wfubmc.edu</a>. If you're aware of any classmates living in one of the "empty" states on the map, please let them know that we'd like to hear from them.

### Alumni Notes

Carol Marzetta, PhD, received her degree in Comparative and Experimental Pathology (now MacPath) in 1985. She is currently Vice President, R & D Strategy Services, and co-founder of Applied Strategies, a company that develops decision-making software for pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

After leaving what was then the Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Dr. Marzetta completed a 'double-post-doctoral fellowship (which she describes as "way too fun")' at the University of Washington's Department of Medicine in 1989. With over 15 years of experience in small molecule and biologic drug development

– from discovery to clinical development to product launching – she has worked in both the private and public sectors, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the World Bank, Baxter BioScience, and Pfizer.

Robert Bradley, MD, completed a pathology residency in 2005, and has spent the past year in a GI/Liver Pathology Fellowship at UCLA. He reports that he and his family have made the most out of their year in Los Angeles: they love the weather and find plenty to do, but the traffic and the smog have him looking forward to his new position in Columbia, SC, which starts this summer.

Jean N. Angelo, MD, passed away October 16, 2006. She was 82. Trained in Neurology at the New England Medical Center in Boston, Dr. Angelo was part of the neurology team at Massachusetts General Hospital and served on the faculty at Yale University before joining the pathology department at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine; she retired in 1989.

Roslyn I. Andrews, MD, passed away October 15, 2006. She was 57. The first female recipient of a Kate B. Reynolds scholarship, Dr. Andrews graduated from Bowman Gray School of Medicine in 1975 and completed her training in pathology as Chief Resident in 1983. She subsequently began a practice at Lexington Memorial Hospital in Lexington, NC.

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#### ONLINE GIFTS:

To make an online gift to Pathology, go to <a href="http://wfubmc.edu/onlinegift">http://wfubmc.edu/onlinegift</a>. In the designation field, please note "Pathology Discretionary Fund."

#### LEAVE A LEGACY:

You can make a lasting and profound impact on groundbreaking research, state-of-the-art medical education and outstanding patient care. Consider including Wake Forest University Health Sciences/Department of Pathology in your will, or naming us beneficiary of a retirement plan or insurance policy, or establishing a charitable annuity or trust that will pay you an income for life. For more information, please contact John Gillon, Senior Director of Gift Planning, Wake Forest University Health Sciences, 800-899-7128 or igillon@wfubmc.edu.



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## **Research Highlights**

Drs. Kylie Kavanagh and Larry Rudel, head of the Lipid Sciences research section, and their team released findings suggesting that consuming trans fats, such as partially hydrogenated vegetable oil, leads to increased weight gain compared to other fats – independent of total calorie intake. This discovery has influenced federal dietary recommendations, and has led to bans on their use in restaurants in some locations

Drs. Zheng Cui and Mark Willingham, head of the Tumor Biology research section turned the accidental discovery of an individual cancer-resistant mouse into a whole population of mice genetically resistant to certain cancers. Their team is using these mice to investigate the role of the immune system in the fight against cancer. More about their findings – including video clips of the molecular activity involved – is available online at <a href="http://www1.wfubmc.edu/pathresearch/srmouse/">http://www1.wfubmc.edu/pathresearch/srmouse/</a>.

**Dr. Patrick Lantz**, head of Forensic Pathology, and his colleagues released a study questioning the use of certain autopsy findings to definitively diagnose non-accidental shaking injuries — so-called 'shaken-baby' syndrome. Their findings are changing the way certain child-abuse cases are prosecuted.

# About Pathology in Sight

Welcome to the first issue of Pathology inSight, and thanks for reading. We plan to publish this newsletter four times a year. We're always happy to hear about our colleagues' accomplishments, and we hope that you'll enjoy keeping up with what's happening here in the Department of Pathology. Please let us know what you think, and what you'd like to see in future issues. Coming up in our summer

edition, we plan to include profiles of retiring faculty, introductions to some of our new faculty, and news about a colony of vervet monkeys that will soon find a home at our Friedberg Campus. You can write to me at the address shown at left, or email me: <a href="mailto:pathalumni@wfubmc.edu">pathalumni@wfubmc.edu</a>.

-Nora Streed, editor