



# WINTER ISSUE

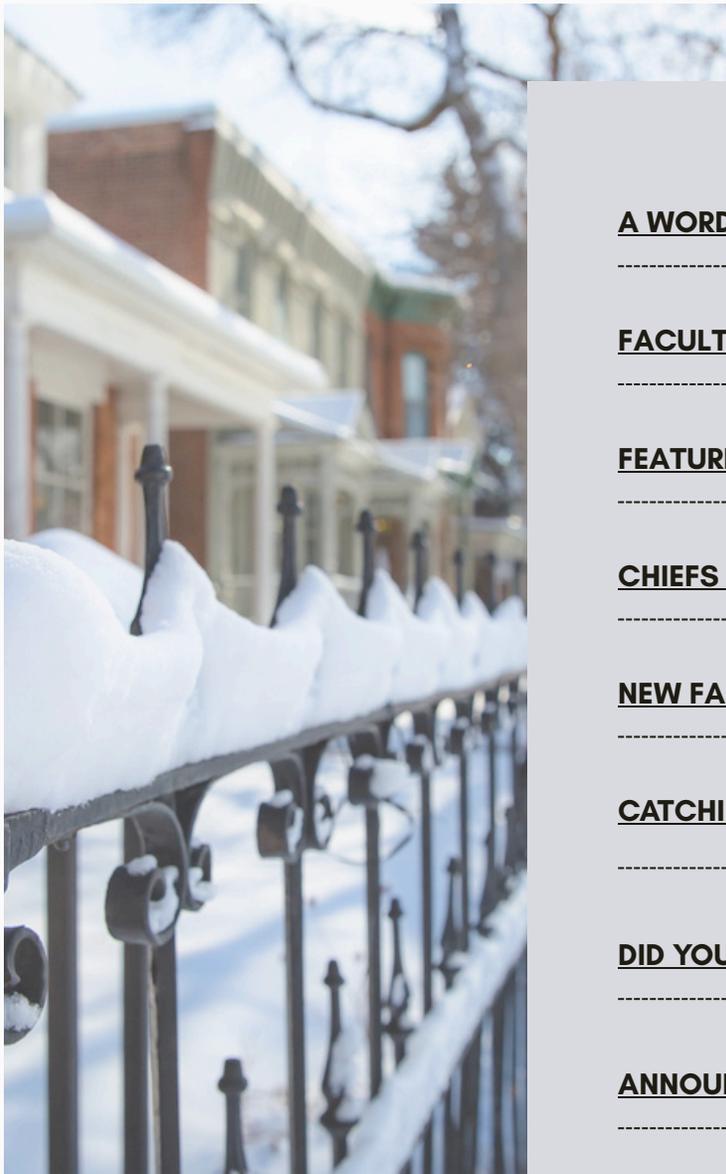
FEB 2026



Department of Pathology  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

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## A Word from the PD / APD

As we roll into February here in Denver, winter is showing a surprisingly gentle side. With unseasonably warm days and abundant sunshine, it's the perfect time to soak up a little extra light, enjoy the outdoors, and carry a hint of spring-like energy into the weeks ahead.

After a brief hiatus from the Resident Newsletter to allow for transitions, we're back—and we have plenty of exciting updates to share! In this issue, you'll find highlights from national meetings our residents attended in the fall, several awards and accomplishments, fellowship acceptances for the 2027-2028 academic year (with a few residents still awaiting the match), photos from recent department events, and introductions to new faculty members. Our faculty spotlight this month features Dr. Michael Clay, Associate Professor, Director of the Bone & Soft Tissue Service at UCH, and Director of the Bone & Soft Tissue Fellowship.

February also brings the ACGME Faculty and Resident Survey, which will be emailed to all trainees and core faculty on Monday, February 9th. We would like to remind everyone that we need at least 70% participation from both groups, so please submit the survey by the April 10th deadline. At the same time, I am finalizing our Rank Order List for submission to the NRMP in preparation for Match Day. Residency recruitment is a major annual effort, made possible by the dedication of our residents, faculty across all sites, Dr. Thor and many Vice Chairs (Dr. Bocsi, Dr. Kaplan, Dr. Lucia, and Dr. Samedi), the Associate Program Directors, Dr. Berg and Dr. Fowler, and especially our program coordinators, Francina Jeelani and Cassie Thomson. I'm excited to see the results of this collective work and look forward to welcoming our incoming PGY-1 class when we announce the Match results on March 20th!

Thank you all for your continued engagement, teamwork, and commitment to the program. I hope you enjoy this issue, and I look forward to the many milestones and moments we'll share together in the months ahead.

*Dr. Lindsey Westbrook, Dr. Mary Berg, and  
Dr. John Fowler,*

**FACULTY FEATURE:****Dr. Michael Clay*****What University did you get your degree from?***

University of Maine, Major - Zoology, Minor - Anthropology. I started in biomedical engineering, which in Maine turned out to be fancy speak for welcome to the paper processing industry (lots of engineering jobs in Maine in the paper industry, all roads led there).

***Where did you grow up?***

Coastal, rural, down-east Maine. 40 mins to a grocery store, 25 mins to a traffic light. I think we might have had a stop sign, but I'm pretty sure it was stolen when I was in high school.

***What are you most proud of?***

My son. It's a special moment when your boy builds a cooler house in Minecraft than you. That guy loves colors and I'm all for it.

***Favorite thing to do in Colorado?***

I think it's honestly the food. I do love the mountains, but my family and I are hugely into sushi. You'd think Colorado would be inferior to other states with us being landlocked, but the most important factor is access to international flights. Can't beat direct flights from Japan every day for quality seafood.

***Best place you've ever traveled?***

Japan, hands down. Takehara specifically, middle of nowhere, great Sake and soy sauce. Our hotel package included unlimited local Sake, which was brewed in town. I'm pretty sure that turned out to be a financial strategic error for the whole region by the time we left. The first night we were there we got stuck in the rain and stood under an awning and ate roadside red bean buns (my wife's favorite). We were there for a week, never saw that place again outside of our first rainy night, straight up disappeared. We joke it was a mystical bun lady that fed us in our time of need.

***Something you're passionate about?***

Education. If you can't explain it, you probably aren't great at doing it. I learn more preparing for talks than almost anything else.

***Who had the greatest influence on your education and/or career path?***

Dr. Jesse McKenney. He was the GU/BST expert at Stanford when I did residency there. He got me excited about morphology, and in turn about BST specifically. He said if I was to train, I should train with the best. So off to Emory I went to train with Sharon Weiss. That set the rest in motion.

***What advice would you give to your younger self or someone still pursuing their education?***

Foundations are everything. You never know what your job will be, what responsibilities you will have. If your foundations are sufficiently strong, you can do pretty much anything. You can't go back, do the thing, read the book, eat the cake.

***What is the most impactful part of your job?***

Being part of a team. I trust my clinicians; they trust me. It makes things better for our patients. No games, just outcomes.

# Scholarly Spotlights

## Scholarly Contributions

### Practical Guide to Implementing Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometry in Clinical Laboratories

Book | © 2025

The Practical Guide to Implement Mass Spectrometry in Clinical Laboratories textbook was published in December 2025. One of the chapters was authored by **Dr. Geza Bodor**, with Mandy Rands, MLS, Toxicology Specialist as his co-author.



### Resident Feature

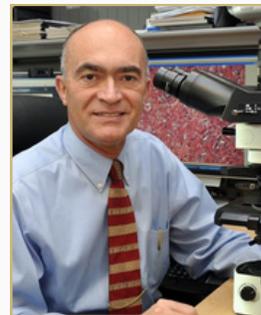


#### Zachary Corey, MD

PGY 2

Congratulations to Dr. Corey who was selected for the **2026-2027 American Society of Dermatopathology Mentorship Award**. As part of the mentorship award, Dr. Corey will spend two weeks at Stanford working with Dr. Ryanne Brown to characterize the expression patterns of p16 and p53 in cystic squamous cell carcinoma (SCC), conventional SCC, and benign mimickers (e.g. seborrheic keratosis and follicular cysts) to determine the diagnostic utility of IHC to differentiate these lesions on superficial biopsies.

### Faculty Feature



#### Francisco La Rosa, MD

Associate Professor - Renal, Heart and Genitourinary Pathology - Pathology Informatics

We would like to recognize that Dr. La Rosa has had multiple recent publications that you can find in the links to below.

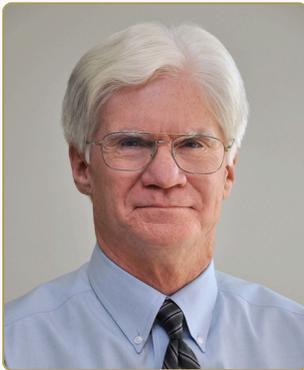
**Pathotype-Specific Expression of Granzyme-Perforin Pathway Genes and Their Association With Clinical Disease Activity in Early Rheumatoid Arthritis and in a Randomized Clinical Trial**

[Link](#)

Researchers find immune pathway in joint tissue involved in early rheumatoid arthritis

[Link](#)

# Celebrating Excellence



## *Gary Brown MA, MBA*

**Vice Chair of Finance and Administration**

Gary Brown celebrated his retirement with faculty and staff. He was recruited 18 years ago following a diverse career that spanned from a business manager to the CEO of a rural hospital in Gunnison, CO.

Mr Brown's vast experience in strategic planning, finance and accounting, and organizational systems facilitated department growth for the last two decades. Significant financial growth and reserves has been critical to the expansion of resident and fellowship programs and support in Pathology. Thank you Gary!



## *Edward Ashwood MD*

**Professor, Director of Clinical Laboratories**

Dr. Edward Ashwood earned his BS at CU Boulder in Chemical Engineering with highest honors. He earned his MD at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, then on to the University of Washington, Seattle, for his residency to Chief Resident. He began his career as an Instructor at UW in Seattle. He moved to Utah in 1985, and in the Department of Pathology, began as an Assistant Professor, then promoted to Associate Professor, then Professor with Tenure.

At Utah, he had many titles including Medical Director of Informatics, Director and Chief Medical Officer of ARUP, President and Chief Executive Officer ARUP Lab, Associate Vice President of Governmental Relations ARUP. In 2016, he was recruited to CU SOM as Director of Clinical Laboratory at UCH.

He has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career. We are currently in the Emeritus process for Dr. Ashwood. Congratulations on your retirement, Dr. Ashwood!

# Reaching New Heights

## Fellowship Acceptances

**Dr. Cassie Lamm:** Gastrointestinal/Liver Fellowship at CU Anschutz (2027/28)

**Dr. Joe Ferrante:** Pediatric Pathology Fellowship, Childrens Hospital of Colorado (2027/28)

**Dr. Amy Rousselot:** Surgical Pathology Fellowship, Stanford University (2027/28)

**Dr. Catherine Eschen:** Cytopathology Fellowship, CU Anschutz (2027/28)

**Dr. Rebecca Wyma:** Pediatric Pathology Fellowship, Boston Children's Hospital (2027/28)

**Dr. Jordan McClaskey:** Transfusion Medicine/ Blood Banking Fellow, CU Anschutz (2026/27)

*\*\* (More announcements to come after match day)*

### Staff Feature



**Julia Schuster, MS**  
Pathology Fellowship Coordinator

We would like to congratulate fellowship coordinator, Julia for completing the NSAMA Advanced Administrator Course 9 hours of education/professional development! Thank you for your hard work, Julia!



### Resident Feature



**Laura Duzett, DO**  
PGY 1

Dr. Laura Duzett is the recipient of the 2025 Resident Recruitment Award from the Society of Pediatric Pathology. Congratulations, Laura!



# Making Headlines

## Faculty Recognition

We would like to congratulate **Dr. Adekunle Alabi** for being one of the ASCP 40 Under 40, 2025 Honoree!

The ASCP 40 Under Forty program recognizes members under the age of 40 for their achievements and leadership qualities that are making an impact on pathology and laboratory medicine. Forty pathologists, laboratory professionals, and residents are chosen annually through an application or nomination process. Read more [here!](#)



### Resident Feature

A portrait of Hadir Shakshouk, MD, a woman wearing a light blue hijab and a pink blazer over a white patterned top.

**Hadir Shakshouk, MD**  
PGY 1

Dr. Hadir Shakshouk gave an oral presentation titled

***“A rare case of collision tumor of a pleomorphic dermal sarcoma and squamous cell carcinoma proven by molecular testing”***

at the 62nd Annual Meeting of The American Society of Dermatopathology (ASDP), held in Baltimore, MD in November 2025.. Thank you for your dedication and scholarly contributions, Hadir!

### Faculty Feature

A graphic for the USCAP award. It features the text 'On the Fourth Day of USCAP, the Academy Gave to Me...' and the USCAP logo. Below the text is a photograph of two people looking at a microscope. A large gold ribbon is overlaid on the right side of the photo. At the bottom of the graphic, it says '...Four IM sessions'.

**Zenggang Pan MD, PhD**  
Professor - Director Hematopathology

We would like to recognize that Dr. Pan has had multiple recent publications that you can find links to these publications [here](#).

We would also like to recognize that Dr. Pan also has multiple upcoming projects with USCAP for the 2026/27 academic year. More information [here](#).

# OUR CHIEFS

## Notable Accomplishments from our Outgoing Chiefs:

- Increased histologic exposure (day holds on large histology specimens), two week subspecialty rotations
- Increased Hematopathology exposure (added additional month and opened heme path electives)
- Opened compensation for gross room coverage
- Incorporated first PSF into pathology resident work flow, increasing medical student education exposure in pathology
- Were crucial to the updating of Surg Path Library
- Initiated back up call, frozen and gross room coverage protocols (patient safety)

*Dr. Mckinzie Johnson & Dr. Joe Ferrante*

## A Message from our Incoming Chiefs:

As co-chief residents, our goal this year is to focus on practical, resident-driven improvements that support education, efficiency, and work-life balance.

### 1. Improving Access to Educational Resources

We aim to expand access to high-quality, shared educational materials to support daily sign-out and independent learning by advocating for high-yield pathology textbooks in the resident room, working toward shared online access to core resources for all resident, and ensuring materials support both AP and CP training needs

### 2. Improving Didactics Flow and Accessibility

We will ensure didactic content remains accessible beyond the live lecture by promoting consistent posting of lecture slides/recorded materials and maintaining a centralized, well-organized repository.

### 3. Promoting Balanced and Transparent Grossing Expectations

We aim to improve clarity and balance in grossing responsibilities across services and training levels by reviewing and updating grossing guidelines to ensure clarity and consistency, defining general grossing expectations and learning goals by PGY level, and promote balanced workflows that support education and well-being.

These goals are intended to be collaborative and responsive to resident feedback. We welcome ongoing input and look forward to working with residents, faculty, and program leadership throughout the year.

*Dr. Ashley Denney & Dr. Rebecca Wyma*



# OUR NEWEST FACULTY

Starting Dates: 7/2025-1/2026



**Dr. Susan Potterveld**  
*Bone and Soft Tissue  
Pathology*



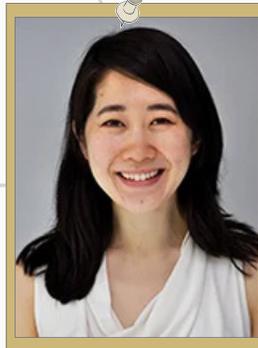
**Dr. Ali Shahabi**  
*Genitourinary/  
Cytopathology*



**Dr. Melissa Delio**  
*Medical Director of  
Hematology Laboratory*



**Dr. Linda Logan**  
*Breast and GYN  
Pathology*



**Dr. Ellie Hong**  
*Hematopathology and  
Molecular Pathology*



**Dr. Nicole Tomm**  
*GI, Liver,  
Pancreaticobiliary  
Pathology*



**Dr. Brent Harris**  
*Director of  
Neuropathology*



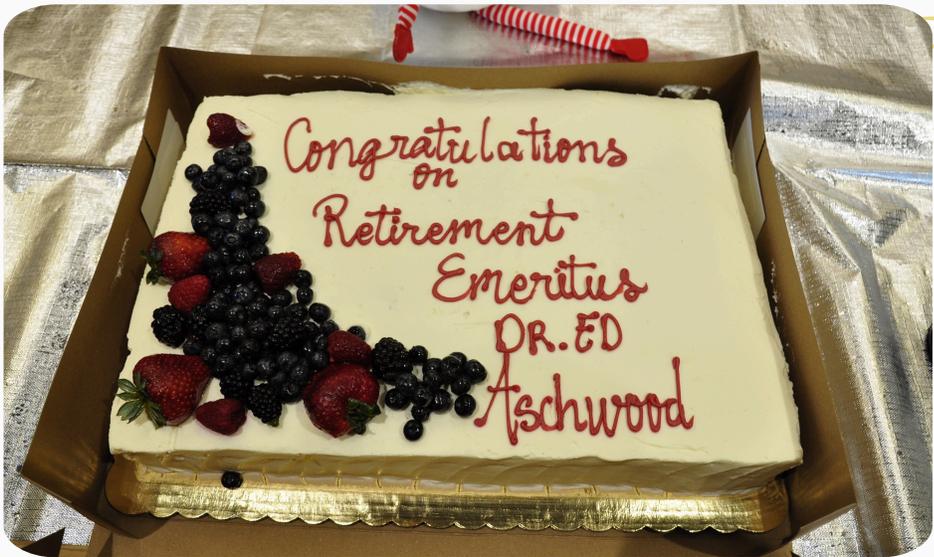
**Dr. Sarah Mengshol**  
*Medical Director of  
Autopsy Pathology*

# 2025 WELCOME EVENT

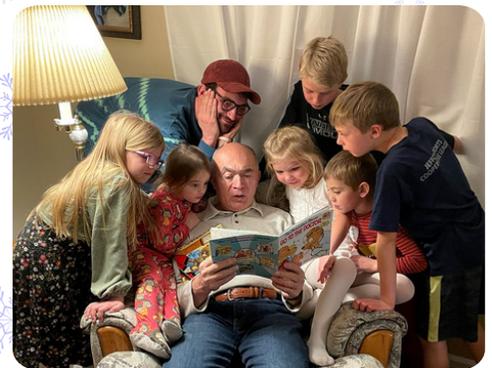
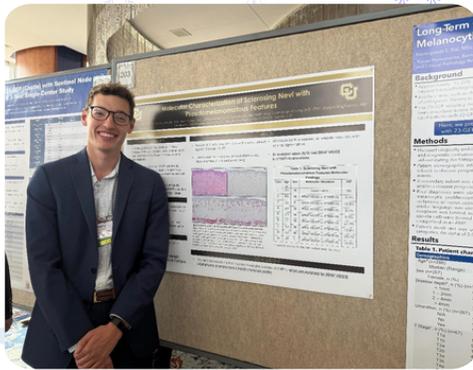
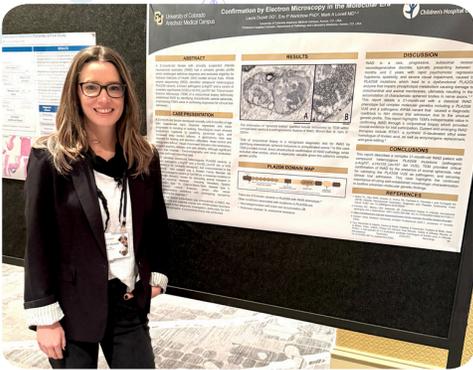




# 2025 PATHOLOGY HOLIDAY PARTY



# CATCHING UP: WINTER EDITION



# Did you KNOW?

## Winter Highlights

### **Black History Month:**

February is Black History Month! It was established in February 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodson. It serves as a time to highlight African American contributions in science, politics, arts, and culture, while recognizing the ongoing fight for civil rights. Black History Month brings necessary visibility to Black history, ensuring it is recognized as integral to national history, not just a separate narrative. The 2026 theme is "A Century of Black History Commemorations," highlighting 100 years of celebrating Black history.

- **Learn More [here](#)**

### **Lunar New Year:**

This year Lunar New Year is on February 17, 2026. It is a major multi-day East/Southeast Asian celebration marking the spring's arrival and the lunisolar calendar's start. It emphasizes family reunions, honoring ancestors and welcoming fortune often via red decorations, feasts and fireworks. It is known as the Spring Festival (春節) in China, Seollal in Korea and Tết in Vietnam.

- **Learn More [here](#)**

### **International Mother Language Day:**

International Mother Language Day is Celebrated annually on February 21st. Established by UNESCO in 1999 and adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2002, inspired by events in Bangladesh. Languages carry cultural identity, knowledge and memory. Their loss threatens cultural heritage and inclusive education. Focus on indigenous languages, as many of the world's languages are endangered.

- **Learn More [here](#)**



STAY TUNED FOR:

# Match Day

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MARCH 20, 2026**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF  
PATHOLOGY IS EXCITED TO  
LEARN WHO WILL BE JOINING  
OUR RESIDENCY PROGRAM THIS  
JULY.**

**KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR AN  
INTRODUCTION OF OUR NEWEST  
MATCHES!**



SAVE THE DATE  
*Graduation*

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY



17 JUNE 2026

AHSB ELLIMAN CONFERENCE ROOM AT 5PM

MORE INFO TO COME



# UPCOMING Events



## Match Day

The annual rite of passage of every med student, occurring every third Friday of March.

Mar  
20  
2026



## ACGME Survey

Survey will be sent out via email on Monday, February 9th. We would like to remind everyone that we need at least 70% participation from both groups, so please submit the survey by the April 10th deadline.

April  
10  
2026



## Graduation

Join us to celebrating our graduating residents and fellows!

Location: AHSB Elliman Conference Room

Time: 5pm

June  
17  
2026



# A Note from the Editor

Winter Issue

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Hello all,

I want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who contributed to this quarter's newsletter! Your submissions and support are what make it possible!

If you have something you'd like to share in the next issue, please feel free to reach out to me at [cassie.thomson@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:cassie.thomson@cuanschutz.edu) or to Fran Jeelani at [francina.jeelani@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:francina.jeelani@cuanschutz.edu).

Warm regards,

*Cassie Thomson*