Letter from the Chair

The Pathology Labs Calendar has become quite a tradition, and we are pleased to offer it again this year. Remarkably, when we once attempted to shorten our mailing list, we received queries and requests from those “left off” the list from as far away as China! As in past years, the calendar is one way we say “thank you” for your continued support and for allowing Yale Pathology to be a partner in the care of your patients. It is also a way to highlight our continuing commitment to outstanding patient care.

The past year has been one of remarkable progress. In support of “precision medicine,” our Molecular Diagnostics and Tumor Genotyping programs have continued to advance. We now offer, in conjunction with the Smilow Cancer Hospital and with Yale’s Center for Genome Analysis, a multi-tiered and cost-effective approach to the genomic analysis of patients with cancer. This begins with a rapid genotype analysis for a subset of the most important and actionable cancer genes vital for first-line treatment of certain cancers and follows with increasingly comprehensive evaluations of the patient’s tumor, all the way up to whole exon sequencing of the entire genome. This level of analysis, along with a clear evaluation of the variants detected and their therapeutic implications, is nearly unprecedented in a clinical laboratory. We are also significantly expanding the genotyping service to meet the explosive growth in demand for these services. On other fronts, we continue to improve patient safety by further expansion of real-time monitoring and workflow optimization of patient specimen tracking within the laboratory, a system developed by Yale Pathology and representing perhaps the most advanced of such systems in the country. Along with the Yale Medical Group (YMG) and YNHH, we have also continued to refine our reporting of laboratory results within the EPIC EMR. For clients using EPIC, they may now receive their Pathology reports through this pathway as well as through RELAY, our own web-based office-reporting tool we developed in-house. Finally, we have partnered with YMG to enhance the responsiveness of our physician liaisons and our client representatives. Overall last year, our subspecialty teams at Yale Pathology diagnosed over 5,000 new cases of cancer and confirmed or refined the diagnosis in more than 2,000 additional cases that we saw in consultation, many cases coming from patients throughout the country and world.

These advances and robust clinical focus on quality and patient safety continue our long tradition at Yale of introducing leading technologies for the benefit of patient care. Pathology at Yale has many “firsts” to its credit, including leadership in documenting the pathology of pandemic flu, radiation injury, and environmental lung disease; methods for the diagnosis and assessment of lymphoproliferative disorders and genomic pathways of tumor resistance to targeted therapeutics. Yale Pathology is also a critical partner with Yale’s Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Smilow Cancer Hospital, working as part of a multidisciplinary team to advance an era of truly personalized medicine and cancer therapy.

Yale’s exceptional diagnostic clinical programs offer patients the most accurate, most advanced, safest, and most cost-effective pathology and laboratory evaluations available. We make these easily accessible to all physicians and patients: our worldwide consultative practices are available throughout the Yale-New Haven Health System (at YNHH York St., the YNHH Saint Raphael Campus, and Bridgeport Hospital) and at Yale Health, and our robust outreach program is specifically designed to serve physicians in their offices. Details of how to access Yale Path Labs services are presented herein. We hope you enjoy the calendar.

Sincerely,

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