

# Letter from the Chair

**Yale Pathology Labs**

*A legacy of caring, a passion for excellence*



The *Yale Pathology Labs Calendar* this year notes several changes that highlight the continued robustness and growth of the services we offer to participating physicians and their patients. It is also noteworthy for our continued integration into Yale Medicine, as well as our continued commitment as the laboratory of choice for the Northeast Medical Group and other practitioners throughout the region.

In support of “precision medicine,” our Molecular Diagnostics and Tumor Genotyping programs have continued to advance. We now offer, in conjunction with Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven 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. We are also one of very few laboratories in the country offering the NCI sponsored Oncomine testing panel of 142 carefully selected genes that can guide clinicians and their patients to the most effective therapies and clinical trials. Indeed, Yale is one of just three NCI selected performance sites participating in the laboratory-evaluation phase of the NCI Match trials. 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 are the only academic laboratory in our region providing FDA approved PDL-1 testing, a key diagnostic for implementing immunotherapy for cancer patients. We also continue to improve patient safety by further expansion of real-time monitoring and workflow optimization of patient specimen tracking within the laboratory, and are expanding these capabilities to other sites within the Yale New Haven Health System. This unique capability, developed by Yale Pathology, represents perhaps the most advanced of such systems in the country. Along with Yale Medicine and Yale New Haven Health, we have also continued to refine our reporting of laboratory results within the Epic EMR. Clients using Epic can 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 expanded our partnership with Yale Medicine to enhance the responsiveness of our physician liaisons and our client representatives. Our practice also continues to grow. 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 seen in consultation, many cases coming from patients throughout the country and the world.

These advances and robust clinical focus on quality and patient safety continue our long Yale tradition of introducing leading technologies for the benefit of patient care. Pathology at Yale has many “firsts” to its credit, including leadership in docu-

menting 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 (Yale New Haven Hospital and Bridgeport Hospital) and at Yale Health Center. 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. Please enjoy the calendar.

Sincerely,

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Faculty of the Department of Pathology