Continuing the Vision at the University of Mississippi Medical Center

Timothy Craig Allen, MD, JD

The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) in Jackson, Mississippi, is Mississippi’s only academic health sciences center. Our vision is to “be a premier academic health sciences system that is recognized nationally for high-quality clinical care, for innovative research[,] and for training committed health care professionals who work together to improve health outcomes and eliminate health care disparities.”¹ We pursue our vision at the same time as we attend to the sickest of the sick patients in a state with traditionally some of the most challenging and intractable health care issues. I am proud of the UMMC team’s singular focus on excellence and am delighted to present this special section, Contributions From the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

In this issue, Juanyce Taylor, PhD, and Ralph Didlake, MD, discuss the UMMC’s strong commitment to diversity and inclusion; Youssef Al Hmada, MD, and colleagues consider the unusual entity of chondroblastoma-like osteosarcoma; Varsha Manucha, MD, and John Henegan, MD, describe their clinicopathologic approach to aggressive-variant prostate cancer; Akram Shalaby, MD, and Veena Shenoy, MD, discuss female adnexal tumor of probable Wolffian origin; Lisa Stempak, MD, and colleagues describe how the pathologist can help the surgeon collect better specimens for microbiology culture; and J. Michael Henderson, MB ChB, FRCS(Ed), and colleagues describe the UMMC’s path for quality improvement.

In next month’s issue, the contributions from the UMMC Special Section continue, with Suzanne Tintle, MD, MPH, and colleagues, who describe the classic findings, mimickers, and distinguishing features in primary blistering skin disease; John Ruckdeschel, MD, who reflects on the UMMC’s Cancer Center and Research Institute; Sarika Jain, MD, and Anu Abraham, MD, who review BCR-ABL1–like B-Acute lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma; Kristen Adams, MD, and colleagues, who discuss umbilical cord teratomas associated with congenital malformations; Joy King, MD, PhD, and John Lam, MD, who present a practical approach to the diagnosis of B-cell lymphomas with diffuse large cell morphology; and Patrick Kyle, PhD, and Jaswinder Kaur, MD, who evaluate novel markers for specimen validity testing.

As UMMC goes forward to serve the citizens of Mississippi, we will do so with an eye toward those who came before us. Luminaries such as Arthur C. Guyton, MD, whose famous *Textbook of Medical Physiology* is in its 13th edition, and James D. Hardy, MD, who performed the first heart transplant in 1964, transplanting the heart of a chimpanzee into a man, continue to shine their light and guide the institution as it moves forward.²±⁴

The UMMC Department of Pathology fully shares UMMC’s remarkable history: “Distinguished American physicians who have served as professors of pathology at UMMC since its inception in 1903 include such notable figures as Dr. Paul R. Cannon, who later served with distinction as chairman of the Department of Pathology at the University of Chicago [Chicago, Illinois]; the renowned virologist Dr. Ernest W. Goodpasture, late chairman of the Department of Pathology and dean of the School of Medicine at Vanderbilt University [Nashville, Tennessee]; Dr. James R. Dawson Jr., former chairman of the Department of Pathology at the University of Minnesota Medical School [Minneapolis], and Dr. James Bell Bullitt, late chair of Pathology at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Dr. Billy S. Guyton, an early dean of the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, served as professor of pathology from 1915–20.”⁵

It is in the memory of these great physicians that I humbly dedicate this special section.

References


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Timothy Craig Allen, MD, JD, obtained his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, Texas) in 1984 and completed his residency in anatomic and clinical pathology, subsequently serving on the faculty of Baylor College of Medicine until 1995. He then attended the University of Chicago Law School (Chicago, Illinois) and graduated with the degree of doctor of law with honors in 1998, subsequently practicing health care law and litigation. Dr Allen completed a 2-year fellowship in pulmonary pathology at the Texas Medical Center (Houston) in 2004. Dr Allen is the chair of the Department of Pathology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (Jackson). He is a member of the Board of Directors and a member of the Academic Advisory Board of the Crime Prevention Research Center. Dr Allen is certified by the American Board of Pathology in anatomic and clinical pathology, with added qualification in cytopathology. He is an associate editor of the Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine. Dr Allen is the immediate past president of the Pulmonary Pathology Society and past president of the Texas Society of Pathologists. He is a governor on the College of American Pathologists Board of Governors, and is chair, vice-chair, or member of several College of American Pathologists councils and committees. He has authored and coauthored numerous articles and book chapters on pulmonary pathology and medicolegal issues and has coauthored and coedited several books on pulmonary pathology. Dr Allen is series coeditor of the Advances in Surgical Pathology series.