



MEDICAL SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT OF LABORATORY MEDICINE & PATHOLOGY

POWELL'S RETIREMENT HIGHLIGHTS A CHAMPION OF MEDICAL EDUCATION IN AN ERA OF SOCIAL CHANGE



Dean Emerita and LMP
Professor Emerita
Deborah Powell

A career that encompasses the changing face of medicine

The historic pace of social change picked up in the last century. Examples abound. Few, however, are as pronounced and remarkable as the shift of medical education from a pursuit dominated by young men to one in which young women reached parity in 40 years.

Women didn't stop there. The Association of American Medical Colleges ([AAMC](#)) reported in 2019 that, for the first time, women made up the majority of medical school applicants and enrollees, reflecting a national trend that more women than men are enrolling in and graduating from college. More women than men earned MD degrees nationally in 2023 as they had the previous two years, with the gap inching wider.

Closing the gap

No one has experienced this social transformation more directly than Dean Emerita and LMP Professor Emerita [Deborah Powell](#). When she graduated from [Tufts University School of Medicine](#) in 1965, Powell was among the seven percent of women graduates from medical schools nationwide. Ten percent at the time was considered a tacit ceiling.

Four decades later, the figure was 47 percent and climbing. It is thanks in no small part to advocates for equity in medical education like Powell that the traditional patriarchy of medicine, still prevalent in the 1960s, began to give way and make way for the diversity witnessed at medical school graduation ceremonies today.

"I was one of six women in my medical school class, and I was one of the first five women to become dean of a medical school," Powell said in an interview. Elected in 2000 to the Institute of Medicine (now the [National Academy of Medicine](#)), she is retiring in June after 22 years as an LMP faculty member. "For me, growing up, I was in an era when women were anomalies. I felt that the exclusion of women, people from lower socio-economic backgrounds, people from different racial and ethnic groups, was wrong. We should open things to everybody. I've been interested for a very long time in helping people break down barriers. I had to break barriers. It was challenging. It shouldn't be so hard."

Full story [here](#).



Stephen Jameson, PhD

JAMESON IS ELECTED AAI PRESIDENT FOR 2024-2025

LMP professor [Stephen Jameson](#) has been elected president of the American Association of Immunologists ([AAI](#)).

The association writes: "AAI is pleased to announce Stephen Jameson, Ph.D. (AAI '96), as its 2024–2025 president following his recent election. Dr. Jameson, a distinguished immunologist and esteemed member of the AAI Council, will assume his role as president on July 1, 2024."

Jameson is AAI's 108th president. He is preceded by University Regent's Professor and Center for Immunology (CFI) director Marc Jenkins (2013-2014) and the distinguished University pathologist, immunologist, and pediatrician Robert Good (1975-76), a pioneer of bone-marrow transplantation.



Harry Orr, PhD

ORR IS NAMED REGENTS PROFESSOR

LMP professor [Harry Orr](#) has been named Regents Professor, the highest honor the University bestows on its faculty. The honor follows his being elected to the University of Minnesota Academic Health Sciences Academy of Excellence in 2006 and to the National Academy of Medicine in 2014, plus winning the 2022 Kavli Prize in Neuroscience.

Orr joined LMP in 1981. He is James Schindler and Bob Allison Ataxia Chair in Translational Research and Director of the Institute of Translational Neuroscience. Orr's initial work on the genetics of the immune system led to a collaboration with Baylor geneticist Huda Zoghbi on spinocerebellar ataxia (SCA1), a neurodegenerative disease affecting motor coordination and cognition. Orr continues to study SCA1 and is working to translate those discoveries into new therapies. See Orr's LMP ["Legends in Pathology"](#) video.

FOUR NEW FACULTY JOIN LMP



Jennifer Laffin, PhD, FACMG

[**Jennifer Laffin, PhD, FACMG**](#), professor, cytogenetics and molecular diagnostics. Laffin received a PhD in genetics from the University of Iowa and completed clinical fellowships in Clinical Molecular Genetics at the University of Iowa and Clinical Cytogenetics at UW Madison.

She was a member of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, Department of Pediatrics - Genetics and Metabolism faculty. All together, Laffin has more than 16 years of clinical laboratory leadership in genetics, genomics and molecular diagnostics and has served on the Association for Molecular Pathology's Clinical Practice Committee.

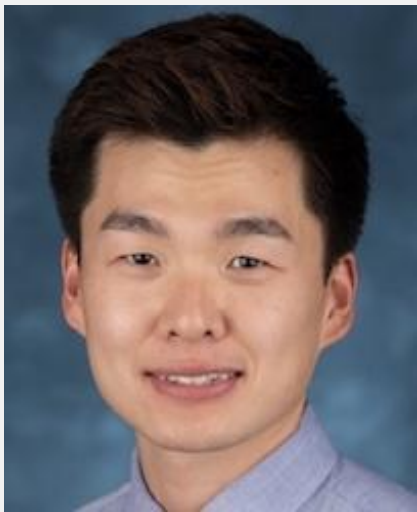


Garrett Fitzpatrick, MD

Garrett Fitzpatrick, MD, assistant professor, neuropathology. Fitzpatrick received an MD from the University of South Florida College of Medicine and completed an anatomic pathology residency (chief resident 2019-2020) at the University of Florida College of Medicine. He was a neuropathology fellow at the Mayo Clinic and subsequently in LMP.

Fitzpatrick joined LMP from Pathology Specialists, Orlando Health, where he was a staff pathologist.

He is a member of the American Medical Association, the American Society for Clinical Pathology, and the College of American Pathologists. While a pathology resident, he created the course "Introduction to Histology for Pathologists."



Byoung Uk Park, MD

Byoung Uk Park, MD, assistant professor, GI/liver pathology. Park received an MD from the University of Francisco Marroquín School of Medicine in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and completed an anatomic and clinical pathology residency at Medstar Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, DC, where he was 2021 Resident of the Year.

He was a surgical pathology fellow at Stanford University Medical School and completed a gastrointestinal and liver pathology fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in June.



Yan Zhou, MD, PhD

[Yan Zhou, MD, PhD](#), assistant professor, pediatric pathology. Zhou received an MD from Peking University Health Science Center in Beijing, China, and a doctorate in pharmaceuticals from the University of Utah. She completed an anatomic and clinical pathology residency in LMP (chief resident, 2022-2023) and a pediatric pathology fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston.

In 2021, Zhou received the Resident Recruitment Award from the Society of Pediatric Pathology for her abstract "Infantile diarrhea secondary to an acquired duodenal-colonic fistula: Informed by upper GI biopsies."

LMP PARTICIPATES IN USCAP ANNUAL MEETING

LMP faculty and residents participated in the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology ([USCAP](#)) annual meeting held March 23-28 in Baltimore. Faculty included LMP professors Oyedele Adeyi (a member of the USCAP Education Committee), Michael Linden and Minghao Zhong, associate professors Paari Murugan and Molly Klein, assistant professor Mehrnoosh Tashakori, and former LMP resident Yan Zhou who will return to LMP later this summer following a fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital.

LMP residents Darby BeDell, Liberty Bonestroo, Katarina Cheng, Dina El-Rayes, Trevor Killeen, Aisha Mohamed and Matt Paz also attended, as did Fairview Ridges Hospital pathologist Linda Varghese. Molly Klein gave a presentation at the breast specialty conference and was a breast platform session moderator.

See Surgical Pathology USCAP meeting abstracts [here](#) and photos [here](#).

LMP IMMUNOLOGISTS LEAD EFFORT TO PINPOINT THE ROLE OF SENESCENT CELLS IN IMMUNE SYSTEM DYSFUNCTION AND AGING

No one knows how old the long-lived patriarch Methuselah was when he died. The biblical account is 969 years. What is certain is that, like any aging person, he had accumulated many non-functional senescent cells in his organs and tissues. Senescence is a process by which a cell ages and stops dividing but does not die. But do bystander senescent cells contribute to disease and accelerated aging, say by triggering inflammation through the immune system?

LMP professor [Stephen Jameson](#) and associate professor [Sara Hamilton Hart](#) together with colleagues from the Institute on the Biology of Aging & Metabolism (iBAM), the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, and the Department of Integrative Biology & Physiology will try to answer that question. Jameson is the program director / lead PI of a five-year **\$13.6 million Program Project (P01) award** from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) entitled "[The role of senescent cells in dysregulating immune responses and pathogen control.](#)"

Full story [here](#)

[LMP Grand Rounds](#)

[LMP Research Network](#)

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