



**MEDICAL SCHOOL**  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT OF LABORATORY MEDICINE & PATHOLOGY

## **LMP FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS**

### **KHALIFA AND THYAGARAJAN APPOINTED LMP VICE CHAIRS**



Mahmoud Khalifa, MD, PhD

LMP has appointed professors [Mahmoud Khalifa](#) as Vice Chair of Anatomic Pathology and [Bharat Thyagarajan](#) as Vice Chair of Translational Research.

In this capacity, Khalifa and Thyagarajan join Anthony Killeen, LMP Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs, and Kristin Hogquist, LMP Vice Chair for Research.

Among Khalifa's responsibilities as Vice Chair of Anatomic Pathology are to provide strategic vision and leadership for all AP sections, oversee AP quality initiatives, and lead the enhancement of AP services at UMMC-East, UMMC-West, Masonic Children's Hospital and the Clinics and Surgery Center (CSC).

Khalifa will lead innovation and encourage active participation in continuous improvement activities across AP operations and expand research and education with cutting-edge digital pathology.



Bharat Thyagarajan, MD, PhD, MPH

Thyagarajan's responsibilities as Vice Chair of Translational Research include developing, implementing, and maintaining a long-term strategic direction for the clinical and translational research programs in the department with input and collaboration from the LMP Vice Chair for Research, LMP faculty, and LMP head Leo Furcht.

Thyagarajan is tasked with spurring collaboration with members of the department, Medical School, University, campus units and other partners to help create a sustainable, top-ten research enterprise as measured by NIH funding.

In addition, he will be responsible for recommending investments in equipment and instrumentation; working with faculty to submit large program project and center grants; and promoting the recruitment and retention of research faculty.

## **SEVEN NEW FACULTY JOIN LMP**

Seven new faculty members have joined LMP. They are:

- [Sandhyarani Dasaraju, MD](#), assistant professor, GYN/breast pathology
- [Ismail Elbaz Younes, MD](#), assistant professor, hematopathology
- [Jeffrey Kubiak, MD, PhD](#), assistant professor, clinical microbiology
- [Ryan Martinez, MD, PhD](#), instructor, molecular pathology
- [Shannon Sullivan, PhD, MPH](#), assistant professor, molecular epidemiology
- [Minghao Zhong, MD, PhD](#), professor, genitourinary and GYN pathology
- [Shijia Zhu, PhD](#), assistant professor, computational biology & bioinformatics



Anthony Killeen, MD, PhD

## **KILLEEN IS ELECTED AACC PRESIDENT FOR 2024-2025**

LMP professor [Anthony Killeen](#) has been elected to serve on the board of directors of the American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) as president-elect starting in August this year. Killeen will serve successive terms as the AACC's president from August 2024-July 2025 and as past president from August 2025-July 2026.

"I am truly honored that the membership has elected me to serve as the president-elect," Killeen told the AACC in a news release. "I am passionate about our field and its role in healthcare, and I look forward to working with AACC's leadership, staff, and members to ensure laboratory medicine professionals have the resources and support they need to excel in a quickly changing healthcare landscape. I fully support efforts to promote diversity in laboratory medicine and clinical chemistry and to expand opportunities for professional advancement to all."

## **POWELL IS AN INAUGURAL MEMBER OF THE APC ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED PATHOLOGY EDUCATORS**



Deborah Powell, MD

LMP professor [Deborah Powell](#) is among 20 inaugural members of the Association of Pathology Chairs (APC) [Academy of Distinguished Pathology Educators](#).

The new APC Academy will recognize and assemble the most accomplished pathology educators who will work closely and collaboratively with the education committees of the Association of Pathology Chairs and with PRODS (Residency Program Directors and Associate Directors) and UMEDS (Undergraduate Medical Educators Section) to:

- Advance excellence in pathology pedagogy,
- Support scholarship and innovation in pathology education and training,
- Develop educational leaders to serve within their medical schools, as well as in national organizations.

## **COHN RECEIVES AABP PRESIDENTS AWARD**



Claudia Cohn, MD, PhD

LMP professor [Claudia Cohn](#) has received the President's Award from the [AABB](#) (Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies). The award "recognizes the extraordinary public service and contributions of an individual or an organization in the health care arena. The recipient's work furthers AABB's goals and missions."

Cohn received the award for her work on a National Alloantibody Exchange. "The award is a significant honor that recognizes one of the most important projects in which I have been involved," Cohn said. "When the National Alloantibody Exchange is launched it will increase patient safety, particularly for patients with sickle cell disease."

### **NCI AWARDS DEHM A FIVE-YEAR \$3.3 MILLION GRANT FOR ADVANCED PROSTATE CANCER STUDY**



Scott Dehm, PhD

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) through the University of Wisconsin Madison has awarded LMP professor [Scott Dehm](#) a five-year \$3.3 million grant for "Molecular regulation and expression of Trop-2 in advanced prostate cancer: Identifying optimal therapeutic niches." LMP associate professor Paari Murugan is a co-investigator.

In recent years, Dehm has tracked down the cellular, molecular, and genetic basis of castration-resistant prostate cancer, a lethal disease in patients who have failed multiple hormonal therapies.

In multiple studies he has described the mechanism by which prostate cancer cells synthesize androgen receptor variants and thus circumvent androgen androgen deprivation therapy.

## **ARDL'S GENOMICS INITIATIVE**

LMP's Advanced Research and Diagnostics Laboratory ([ARDL](#)) launched a Genomics Core initiative two years ago with a proposal to leverage its national leadership as the long-standing central biochemistry laboratory for NIH-sponsored multicenter longitudinal cohort studies. It set out to expand its testing capabilities to include genomic analysis of

incoming specimens and to work both with partners in industry and within the M Health Fairview System to develop novel genomics-based diagnostic tests. Full story here:

## [The human genome is poised to reshape clinical medicine](#)

### **LMP REMEMBERS HEALTH INFORMATICS PIONEER DONALD CONNELLY**

Retired LMP faculty member Donald Connelly, a pioneer in health and pathology informatics, passed away September 20. His *StarTribune* obituary is [here](#). See also his Institute for Health Informatics profile [here](#). LMP professor Anthony Killeen wrote to his LMP colleagues: "My first meeting with Don was when I was a new resident on the clinical chemistry rotation many years ago and he was teaching informatics. He was talking about a then-new software tool called a 'spreadsheet.' He was a true gentleman and a pioneer in health informatics in the U.S." The LMP website has more [here](#) about Donald Connelly.

#### [LMP Grand Rounds](#)

#### [LMP Research Network](#)

Note: This mailer is compliments of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the University of Minnesota. If you do not wish to receive it or have comments, please let us know using this email link: [um-lmp@umn.edu](mailto:um-lmp@umn.edu)