



PATHOLOGY BYTES

LSU Health Sciences Center Department of Pathology ♦ Summer 2026

Chair's Report: University Medical Center and LSU Health Sciences Center approve Precision Medicine Collaboration

Final details in the institutional agreement between LSUHSC-NO and University Medical Center-NO are being addressed to allow UMC-NO patients to access molecular diagnostics in the LSU Precision Medicine Laboratory. This agreement will allow testing to be performed in the LSU Precision Medicine Laboratory and billing to be handled by UMC.

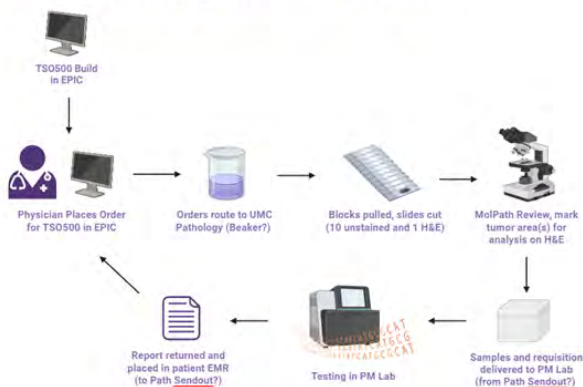
I am the medical director of the LSU Precision Medicine Laboratory. Judy Crabtree, Ph.D., ASCP, Molecular Specialist, is the laboratory director. The LSU Precision Medicine Laboratory is in the LSU Clinical Sciences Research Building rooms 616 (pre-PCR), 621 (post-PCR), 625 (instrumentation), and 620 (Sequencer).

The LSU Precision Medicine Laboratory will offer two tests initially, the Somatic Cancer TSO500 and the DYPD test. This Illumina NGS-based TSO500 panel interrogates over 500 genes that are drivers or associated with cancer in solid tumors while also allowing for assessment of tumor mutational burden (TMB) and microsatellite instability (MSI). Ten unstained slides and one H&E slide are required from Formalin-Fixed Paraffin-Embedded tissue specimens. At UMC-NO, the cancerous areas for testing are circled by an LSU Pathologist on H&E which tells the precision medicine team at LSU what part of the unstained slides to macrodissect for testing. It is essential that a block be chosen so that these slides contain at least 30% tumor

in the circled area. Validation accuracy drops off precipitously below 30% and impacts detection of some genetic variants. The requirement of 10 slides and >30% tumor ensures we have sufficient material – decreasing QNS returns – and ensures accuracy for variant detection. Maximum specimen numbers for TSO500 is 7/week x 48 weeks = 336 annually. Turn-around time is 1-2 weeks, which should be significantly better than other commercially available molecular panels.

Attached is the current TSO500 process map that outlines the sample flow from test initiation through reporting:

TSO-500 Ordering Process Map - UMC



Continued on Page 2

Give Your Support

To make a monetary donation to the LSUHSC Pathology Residency Program, [click here](#) and select your designation as Pathology Residency Support Fund.

Thank you for your support!

Pathology Department Administrative Staff

Gordon L. Love, MD
Department Head
glove2@lsuhsc.edu

Tammy Waltz
Business Manager
Twaltz@lsuhsc.edu

Elizabeth "Liz" Monnin
Residency Program Coordinator
Esoroe@lsuhsc.edu

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LSU New Orleans Pathology Residency Program



LSUHSC-NO-Pathology



lsunopath

Chair's Report From Page 1

To address the new boxed warning on capecitabine (an oral antimetabolite) that recommends testing for DPYD variants, UMC-NO Gynecologic Oncologists have requested a qPCR-based test that queries the 7 Tier I variants in DPYD, the gene for dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD) that degrades fluoropyrimidine-based compounds like capecitabine and 5-fluorouracil. Patients carrying one of the variants have fully or partially inactivated DPD which causes dangerous accumulation of the drug and serious adverse events, including death. This test is performed on whole blood samples (purple top/EDTA or green top/heparin tubes). We are currently validating this test. Maximum specimen number for DPYD is 30 specimens a week x 48 weeks = 1440 annually.

A major advantage to UMC-NO of having access to a local molecular diagnostic precision medicine laboratory is the ability to implement new molecular tests with faster turn-around times than tests that are available commercially. Future tests may include a myeloid panel in support of the new Stem-Cell Transplant program at UMC-NO. The myeloid panel targets 54 genes associated with myeloid malignancies. Probes amplify 568 amplicons from tumor suppressor genes and mutational hotspots. The Illumina myeloid panel assists in the diagnosis of Acute myeloid leukemia (AML), Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), Myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN), Chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML), Chronic myelomonocytic leukemia (CMML),

and Juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia (JMML). Another future area of testing requested by UMC-NO Gynecologic Oncologists is homologous recombination deficiency (HRD) testing in ovarian and other gynecologic cancers. When a tumor exhibits homologous recombination deficiency, the patient may be eligible for treatment with PARP inhibitors, a class of targeted cancer therapies that prevent tumor cells from repairing damaged DNA, causing the cancer cells to die.

The benchtop Illumina NextSeq 550 supports the



Gordon L Love MD

Gordon Love, MD

Jack Perry Strong Endowed Chair of Pathology
LSU Health—New Orleans

Medical Director of Laboratories at University
Medical Center—New Orleans, New Orleans
East Hospital, LSU Precision Laboratory

Publication Referenced At USCAP Meeting

A recent pathology publication, "Segmental atrophy of the liver: Review of a rare pseudotumor", which was featured in the World Journal of Clinical Cases, was referenced at the Hans Popper Hepatopathology Society presentation during the 2026 USCAP Conference. Congratulations to Dr. Ayesha Younus, Dr. Yu Liu, Dr. Ellen Connor, Dr. Zengying Wu, and Dr. Zhiyan Fu!

Faculty Promotions



Tracy Dewenter, MD
Professor of Clinical Pathology
July 1, 2026



Ellen Connor, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Clinical
Pathology
July 1, 2026

Ritu Bhalla, MD, Attends ACGME Review Committee Meetings/Sets Accreditation Standards

We are excited and proud to have Dr. Ritu Bhalla, our Residency Program Director, shaping the future of Pathology.

During the 2025-26 academic year, as a review committee member, Dr. Bhalla had the pleasure of participating in several meetings to set accreditation standards for our nation's pathology residency and fellowship training programs. In this capacity, she provided feedback and suggestions on ACGME requirements for AP/CP residency and pathology fellowships. Her responsibilities included reviewing programs, assessing whether programs were in compliance with ACGME requirements, and potentially awarding accreditation. She also had to determine whether sites intending to start a training program or intending to increase the available training spots had the necessary resources to do so and were in compliance with the set standards.

ACGME accredits and oversees the quality of education in 13,762 graduate medical education (GME) programs, and 905 institutions that sponsor those programs.



Dr. Ritu Bhalla poses for a picture with her fellow ACGME Review Committee Members at their meeting in May in Chicago.

Additionally, Dr. Bhalla was recently invited to serve on the USCAP Abstract Review Board in the Genitourinary Pathology category for a three-year term from 2026-2029. This is another incredible honor for Dr. Bhalla, which is a testament to her skills.

Best Faculty and Support Staff Awarded

Each year, the Pathology residents select a faculty member and support staff member who they feel demonstrates exemplary commitment, teaching, and support for our residents.

This 2026 Education and Commitment Award was presented to Dr. Jonathan Somma, a Professor of Clinical Pathology at LSUHSC-NO and a Cytopathologist at UMC-NO, and the 2026 Best Support Staff Award was presented to Chedaphne Audrict, the Lead Cytotechnologist at UMC-NO. "From adequacy runs on fine needle aspirations, to training the art of ASCUSing/low-grading/high grading the Paps, admiring



Residents Angelle Jolly, MD, left, and Ayesha Younus, MD, right present the Jonathan Somma, MD, with the 2026 Education and Commitment Award and Chedaphne Audrict with the 2026 Best Support Staff Award.

intranuclear inclusions, following the nuclear membrane abnormalities, and finding rare cells on cell blocks," our residents thanked Dr. Somma and Chedaphne for their patience

in teaching these skills. "Their dedication, expertise, and commitment to education and patient care have made a meaningful impact on our residency education."



2026 Residency Graduates Recognized

We are proud to announce our 2026 LSUHSC-NO Pathology Residency Program graduates! They are: Julia Rivera-Sustache, MD, Asra Feroze, MBBS, and Haibo Wang, MD, PhD. A recognition dinner was held in New Orleans at Ralph's On The Park to recognize and congratulate our graduates. Each graduate was presented with a framed graduation certificate.

Dr. Rivera-Sustache accepted a hematopathology fellowship at the University of Rochester, Dr. Feroze accepted a fellowship in gynecologic pathology at Cleveland Clinic Foundation, and Dr. Wang accepted a

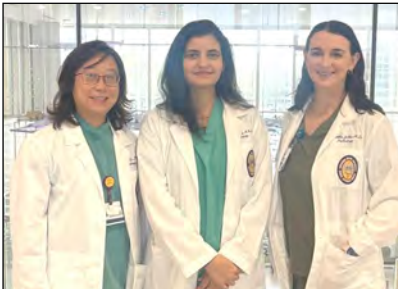


Pictured, from left, are Dr. Julia Rivera-Sustache, Dr. Asra Feroze, Dr. Ritu Bhalla, Program Director, and Dr. Haibo Wang.

breast pathology fellowship at Yale University.

We look forward to following their career paths and learning about their new endeavors.

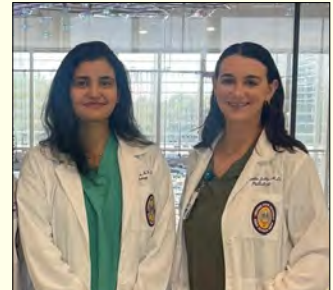
PGY4 Residents Accept Fellowships



Pictured, from left, are Dr. Yu Liu, Dr. Ayesha Younus, and Dr. Angelle Jolly.

Congratulations to our residents who accepted fellowships in 2027! Yu Liu, MD, accepted a fellowship in gynecologic pathology at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Ayesha Younus, MBBS, accepted a fellowship in hematopathology at Montefiore Einstein Medical Center in New York, and Angelle Jolly, MD, accepted a fellowship in hematopathology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio.

2026-2027 Chief Residents Announced



Pictured, from left, are Dr. Ayesha Younus and Dr. Angelle Jolly.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Angelle Jolly and Dr. Ayesha Younus, our Chief Residents for the 2026-2027 academic year. We are confident that their dedication and commitment to excellence will bring fresh perspectives and leadership to our program. We would also like to thank our outgoing chief residents, Dr. Julia Rivera-Sustache, Dr. Haibo Wang, and Dr. Asra Feroze. Their leadership and dedication have been invaluable, and we sincerely appreciate their contributions to our residency program.

Welcome New LSU Pathology Residents 2026-2027



Ma. Cristina Briones, MD
University of Santo Tomas Faculty of
Medicine and Surgery
Philippines



Madison Calloway, DO
Lincoln Memorial University—DeBusk
College of Osteopathic Medicine
Tennessee



Ryan Miller, MD
Louisiana State University School
Of Medicine
New Orleans

Pathology Website Gets A Face Lift

Pathology faculty, residents and alumni went on camera to give an in depth picture of the Pathology residency program. Six professional videos were produced and are now on the residency web page.



Dr. Ritu Bhalla shares the resources that are offered to our residents.

The first video focuses on why LSU Health New Orleans is the best choice for a pathology residency. Alumni explain why they chose LSUHSC-NO for their residency, how the training prepared them to correctly interpret cases, and how they were able to secure valuable fellowships. Faculty tell about the complex cases that are seen at University Medical

Center—New Orleans and about our team of pathology specialists. Residents explain how the program is designed, about our rotation sites and about the abundance of scholarly activity that is available. The second video introduces prospective residents to each of our board-certified pathology specialists. The third, fourth, and

fifth videos provide an in-depth examination of particular aspects of our program: the third video highlights our autopsy rotations, the fourth delves into our didactics and the resources available to our residents, and the fifth illustrates how our program equips residents for fellowships.

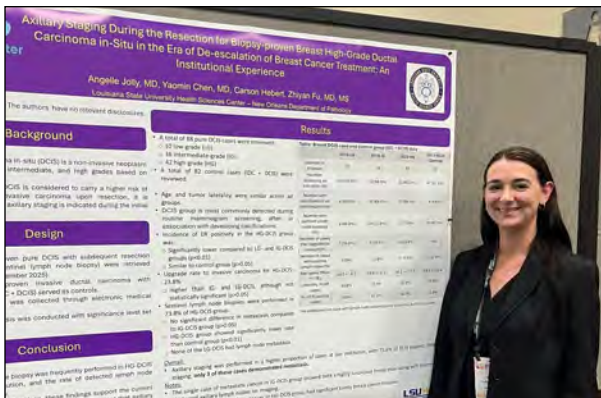
Our concluding video informs prospective residents about the excellent work/life balance that pathologists experience, as well as life in the lively city of New Orleans.

We would like to thank our two resident alumni, Dr. Jack Harbert and Dr. Bing Han for their willingness to be featured in the videos. Please take a few minutes to look at our videos. Go to <https://residents.lsuhsu.edu/no/pathology/default.aspx>. Each video is only a few minutes long so you can watch one or two, take a break and watch a few more. We would love to know what you think about them.



Dr. Angelle Jolly talks about her residency experience.

PGY3 Resident Gives Oral Presentation At USCAP Meeting



Angelle Jolly, MD, poses for a picture with her poster at the 2026 USCAP Meeting.

Dr. Angelle Jolly, who was a PGY3 resident at the time, was selected to give an oral presentation of her poster, “Axillary Staging During the Resection for Biopsy-proven Breast High-Grade Ductal Carcinoma in-Situ in the Era of De-escalation of Breast Cancer Treatment: An Institutional Experience”, at the 2026 USCAP Meeting held in March 2026 in San Antonio, Texas. What an honor! Dr. Jolly did an exceptional job!

Ryan Miller, M.D., PGY1, Receives Russell L. Holman Award



Pictured, from left, are Gordon L. Love, MD, Ryan Miller, MD, Ellen Connor, MD, PhD, and Grace Athas, PhD

Congratulations to Dr. Ryan Miller, a PGY1 resident, for receiving the Pathology Department’s 2026 Russell L. Holman Memorial Award! This award is presented each year to a graduating senior who has selected a career in Pathology, maintains a high GPA in all anatomic and clinical pathology coursework, and has made contributions, such as enduring teaching materials, to pathology during medical school. Dr. Miller was presented with a plaque, and a check from the Louisiana Pathology Society in the amount of \$300.

LSUHSC Medical Student Receives CAP Award

Carson Hebert, a third-year medical student, received the 2026 CAP Distinguished Medical Student Award. He was presented with a certificate and a \$250 monetary award by Rachna Jetly, MD, MPH, Professor of Pathology, and Grace Athas, PhD, Associate Professor of Pathology, at the Students Interested in Pathology Subspecialties (SIPS) Meeting held Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

The Distinguished Medical Student Award is given to a medical student, in any year of training, for outstanding achievement, aptitude, or interest in pathology. The Award honors the student's initiative in learning about pathology and participating in pathology-related activities. It intentionally elevates the specialty by leveraging the involvement of pathologists in medical students' training as they interact prior to and during the selection process.

Carson was nominated for the award by Dr. Jetly and Dr. Athas. Dr. Athas states, "During medical school admission interviews, Carson was already interested in Pathology after his shadowing experience with a community-based Pathologist practice during Covid. From his personal statement:

'Within the first few minutes shadowing in Pathology, it seemed that for the first time in my life, I had finally found a career that was suited to my every liking.' This interest has continued in medical school. He was one of the first students to do a 1-week preceptorship in his freshman year over the winter holiday break. He demonstrates a strong Pathology focus by exceling in course work, creating Pathology-related enduring teaching concept maps for his peers in the Hematology and Neuroscience blocks, and presenting a poster titled "Transient Pseudo-Pelger Huet Anomaly Associated with Zanubrutinib Treatment in a Patient with Chronic lymphocytic Leukemia" at the American Society for Clinical Pathology's 2025 meeting."

Carson is an active member of the SIPS group. His commitment to medical education is reflected in his role as a tutor to freshman and sophomore medical students.

Carson is an exceptional budding physician and well-deserving of this prestigious award.

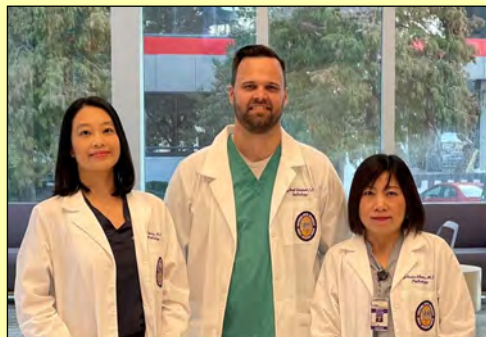


Pictured from left are: Rachna Jetly, MD, MPH, Carson Hebert, and Grace Athas, PhD.

Where Are They Now?

Congratulations to our 2025 residency graduates, Michael Webber, DO, Liz Yang, MD and Jihuan Chen, MD, PhD!

Dr. Webber is a Pathologist with the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System at Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Delaware. Dr. Yang is an Assistant Professor at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York, and Dr. Chen is a Staff Pathologist at the VA San Diego Healthcare System.



Pictured from left are: Liz Yang, MD, Michael Webber, DO, and Jihuan Chen, MD, PhD

SIPS Group Secures Grants And Awards

The Students Interested in Pathology Subspecialties (SIPS) group has been very busy this year organizing events to give medical students a better understanding of the clinical practice of pathology. Five informational meetings with guest speakers exposed students to broad aspects of practice as well as several pathology subspecialties. Students were invited to tour the UMC-NO Pathology laboratory and spend time with the residents. SIPS also hosted several hands-on experiences to introduce students to specimen grossing and fine-needle aspiration. SIPS gave back to the community by organizing four school-wide blood drives and assisting with organ demonstrations for visiting high school students.

The SIPS group was awarded two grants to benefit the SIPS Foundation Fund, which enables them to continue offering these beneficial experiences for medical students in the coming year. The group was awarded a Medical Student Interest Group grant in the amount of \$500 by the Intersociety Council for Pathology Information, and SIPS President, Tanner Hoole, was awarded the 2025 ASCP Medical Student Award in the amount of \$100, and the 2026 CAP Foundation Sparking Interest in Pathology Award in the amount of \$500 for his project initiative to expand hands-on opportunities for medical students by offering introductory grossing and FNA

demonstrations. Additionally, the governing Board of the Intersociety Council for Pathology Information (ICPI) approved Tanner's application to join the Pathology Honor Society.

The many successes of the group over this past year are attributable to the hard work and planning done by the SIPS officers, President Tanner Hoole, Vice President Chloe Schrader, and Secretary Elizabeth Carey, as well as the Faculty Advisor, Dr. Ellen Connor, and the Resident Liaisons, Drs. Angelle Jolly and Andria Chada.

Hoole's Project Mentioned In CAP Article

The College of American Pathologists' Foundation recently released an article, "Next Stop: Pathology", featuring a short write-up of SIPS President Tanner Hoole's project that received funding from the CAP Foundation Sparking Interest in Pathology Award. To read more, visit <https://foundation.cap.org/ourstories/next-stop-pathology/>.

Publications and Abstracts

Edorium Journals



Haibo Wang, MD, Yaomin Chen, MD, Ridin Balakrishnan, MD. "An unusual case of ovarian high-grade carcinoma and neuroendocrine tumor: Dedifferentiated ovarian carcinoma or mixed adenocarcinoma and neuroendocrine carcinoma? Clinicopathologic features and literature review". Edorium Journals 2026

MDPI



Yaomin Chen, MD, Haibo Wang, MD, Zhiyan Fu, MD, Ellen Connor, MD, PhD. "Incidental Cardiac Metastasis in Breast Carcinoma". MDPI 2026

Yaomin Chen, MD, Yu Liu, MD, PhD, Zhiyan Fu, MD. "Gastric Sarcina ventriculi: A Report on Two Cases". MDPI 2025

Science Direct



Haibo Wang, MD, Yu Liu, MD, Asra Feroze, MD, Zengying Wu, MD, Jonathan Somma, MD, Zhiyan Fu, MD. "Should we subtype gastric intestinal metaplasia in gastric biopsies, a single institution's experience". ScienceDirect 2026

CAP 2025



Ayesha Younus, MD, Yu Lie, MD, PhD, Yaomin Chen, MD, Ritu Bhalla, MD. "Diagnostic Dilemma in Reporting of Cribriform Pattern of Prostate Carcinoma: A Retrospective Review". CAP 2025

Tri-State Pathology Conference 2025

“Yu Liu, MD, PhD, L. Granier, Sharon Stradley, Shaun Lawicki, MBBS. Impact of Discontinuing Manual Tube Screening Following Negative Solid Phase Antibody Panels”, Committee Choice Award. Tri-State Pathology Conference 2025

Ayesha Younus, MD, Julia Rivera, MD, Bushra Nazir, MD. “APL-Like Presentation of NPM1-Mutated AML: Two Case Studies”. Tri-State Pathology Conference 2025

Angelle Jolly, MD, Hiba Fazalur-Rehman, Rachna Jetly, MD, MPH. “Bone Marrow Erythroid Hypoplasia in a Complex Patient with Mixed Connective Tissue Disease, Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia and Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis”. ASCP 2025

Angelle Jolly, MD, Carson Hebert, Rachna Jetly, MD, MP. “Transient Pseudo-Pelger-Huet Anomaly Associated with Zanubrutinib Treatment in a Patient with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia”. ASCP 2025

ASCP 2025

Yu Liu, MD, PhD, Zhiyan Fu, MD, Ritu Bhalla, MD. “Breast carcinoma metastatic to renal cell carcinoma: A rare example of Tumor-to-Tumor Metastasis”. ASCP 2025

Yaomin Chen, MD, Yu Liu, MD, PhD, Zhiyan Fu, MD. “Gastric Sarcina ventriculi: Case Report and Literature Review”. ASCP 2025

Yaomin Chen, MD, Zhiyan Fu, MD, Ellen Connor, MD, PhD. “A Rare Case of Cardiac Metastasis from Breast Carcinoma”, ASCP 2025

Ayesha Younus, MBBS, Gordon L. Love, MD. “Sterile Hyphae from an Immuno-compromised Patient with Chronic Pulmonary Aspergillosis”. ASCP 2025

Ayesha Younus, MBBS, Catilin Sullivan, Rachna Jetly, MD, MPH. “Myelodysplastic Neoplasm with Multi-hit TP53 Mutation in a Young Adult”. ASCP 2025

USCAP 2026

Angelle Jolly, MD, Yaomin Chen, MD, Jonathan Somma, MD, Zhiyan Fu, MD. “Axillary Staging During the Resection for Biopsy-proven Breast High-Grade Ductal Carcinoma in-Situ in the Era of De-escalation of Breast Cancer Treatment: An Institutional Experience”. USCAP 2026

Yu Liu, MD, PhD, Yaomin Chen, MD, Vishva Mistry, DO, Ridin Balakrishnan, MD. “Count On It: An Outcome-Anchored Three-Gland Rule for Extensive Endocervical Gland Involvement (eEGI) in Initial Cervical Biopsies with HSIL”. USCAP 2026

American Diabetes Association Conference 2026

Brantlee McConaughy, MD; Patrick Quebedeaux, MD; Ricardo Gomez, MD; Dania Felipe, MD; Arlette Soros, MD; Isabella Marranzini, MD; Gordon Love, MD; James Hempe, PhD; Stuart Chalew, MD. “Labile HbA1c (L-HbA1c) and the Mystery of Higher HbA1c in Non-Hispanic Blacks (NHB) versus Non-Hispanic Whites (NHW) Independent of Blood Glucose”. ADA 2026

Events and Celebrations

