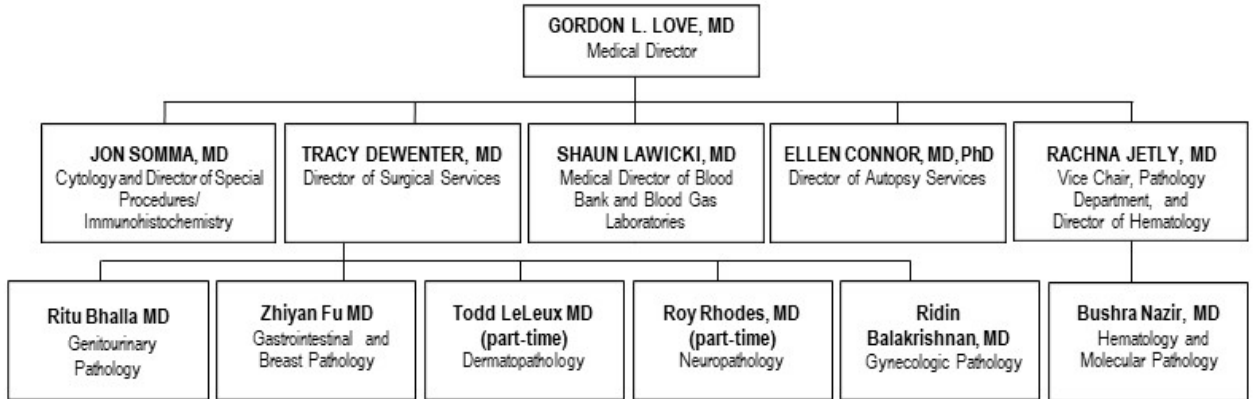


PATHOLOGY BYTES

LSU Health Sciences Center Department of Pathology ♦ Summer 2024

Chair’s Report:



I am proud to announce that LSUHSC Pathology offers a balanced complement of specialized, board-certified Pathologists. In September 2023, Dr. Ridin Balakrishnan, a Gynecologic Pathologist, and Dr. Bushra Nazir, a Hematopathologist and Molecular Pathologist, joined our department to complete our staffing. Our department is now comprised of 10 full-time and two part-time pathologists who all hold board certifications in Anatomic & Clinical Pathology. Our Pathologists hold specialty board certifications in Hematopathology, Dermatopathology, Molecular Pathology, Forensic Pathology, Blood Banking, Cytopathology, Neuropathology, and Microbiology/Mycology. Additionally, several LSU Pathologists have completed specialty training in Genitourinary Pathology, Gynecologic Pathology,

and Gastrointestinal/Breast Pathology which are critical areas of Pathology expertise in which Pathology specialty board certification is not offered.

Dr. Balakrishnan and other pathologists are working with the LSUHSC Obstetrics/Gynecology Department to improve Pathologic diagnoses and turn-around-times of gynecologic specimens. We will be similarly working with other clinical departments to improve patient care.

In addition to the above personnel, Grace Athas, Ph.D., and Ellen Connor, M.D., Ph.D, coordinate the medical student teaching at LSUHSC School of Medicine and Fred H. Rodriguez, Jr., M.D., oversees the UMC EquiP program.

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!

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Follow us



LSU New Orleans Pathology
Residency Program



LSUHSC-NO-Pathology



lsunopath

Ritu Bhalla, MD Attends AAMC Mid-Career Women Faculty Leadership Seminar/Selected to ACGME Pathology Review Committee

Dr. Ritu Bhalla, Pathology Residency Program Director, along with two additional faculty members, represented the LSU Health Sciences Center School of Medicine at the 2023 AAMC Mid-Career Women Faculty Leadership Seminar held in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Bhalla was selected as one of the LSUHSC faculty members to apply for the seminar and her application was accepted.

This highly engaging three-day seminar focused on organizational leadership topics and career advancing strategies for continued progress in academic medicine and science. It provided attendees' exposure to different leadership styles, diverse personality traits, communication styles, and importantly enhanced networking.

"Being selected by LSUHSC and AAMC to attend the AAMC mid-career women development seminar was very motivational," said Dr. Bhalla, "It spoke towards

LSUHSC's investment in the growth and advancement of women educators."



Pictured, from left, are: Amy Creel, MD, Stacey L. Holman, MD, and Ritu Bhalla, MD.

Additionally, after observing the growth and development of the Pathology Residency Program over the past several years, Dr. Bhalla was recently nominated by the AMA Council on Medical Education to become a member of the ACGME Pathology Review Committee. The ACGME delegates authority to accredit programs/institutions to its review committees, which are comprised of peer specialists in the respective fields. Dr. Bhalla was granted membership by the ACGME for a term of six years. In this capacity along with seven

other members, she will establish and periodically revise requirements for pathology specialty and its subspecialties, and review compliance with the requirements and render accreditation decisions and cycle lengths to the pathology programs, nationwide.

Drs. Rachna Jetly and Ellen Connor Assume Additional Roles at LSUHSC-NO

Rachna Jetly, MD, and Ellen Connor, MD, PhD, recently assumed additional roles at LSU Health Sciences Center—New Orleans. Dr. Jetly assumed the role of Vice Chair of the Department of Pathology, and Dr. Connor assumed the role of Pathology Clinical Content Co-Director.

Dr. Jetly, Professor of Clinical Pathology and Director of the Hematology, Flow Cytometry and Electrophoresis Laboratories at the University Medical Center—New Orleans, additionally serves as Vice-Chairman of the Department of Pathology. In this new administrative role, she is responsible for reviewing and approving all leave requests in a timely manner, reviewing and approving all time certifications in a timely manner, responding to all



Rachna, Jetly, MD

faculty and staff inquiries, and performing departmental duties in the absence of the Department Head.

Dr. Connor, Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology and Director of the University Medical Center—New Orleans Autopsy Services, serves in an additional role as Pathology Clinical Content Co-Director. In addition to her current teaching, clinical and administrative duties, her new responsibilities include reviewing teaching content for all second-year medical school courses, recruiting and working with fellow Pathology faculty, reviewing Step 1 preparation materials, and teaching and co-directing the Foundations course.



Ellen Connor, MD, PhD

Case of the Month Webpage Introduced

In the digital era, the internet is a pivotal platform for disseminating knowledge. Educational webpages have proven to be crucial tools in this landscape, serving widespread audiences and contributing significantly to education in various fields.

With this in mind, in August 2023, the Department of Pathology website introduced an educational webpage called the “Case of the Month” with the intention of highlighting interesting and challenging Pathology cases from the pool of myriad cases encountered in our practice. Our goal was to create high-quality content with a user-friendly design, ensuring user engagement with every published case.

Every month, a faculty and resident from our department present a case with the associated pertinent clinical and Pathology findings, followed by a discussion on the diagnosis and its differential diagnoses. A few multiple-choice questions are provided, allowing learners to assess their understanding of the topic and identify areas needing improvement. The selected cases published on the webpage stand out in their complexity, rarity and unusual clinical presentations. The diagnostic dilemmas encountered in such cases and the discussions on the topic are intended to serve as an educational resource for medical trainees and for Pathologists for work-up of similar cases.

This endeavor has met with enthusiastic participation both from the clinical faculty and Pathology residents. So far, we have published 10 cases from various Pathology subspecialties. We have received positive feedback from many residents on how this process helped them develop a deeper understanding of the case and the associated ancillary testing used to arrive

at the Pathology diagnosis while excluding other differentials. Also, during interviews, many residency candidates mentioned visiting this webpage and getting a positive impression of the department. This further reiterates our belief that the “Case of the Month” webpage highlights to a wide audience the challenging cases encountered in our clinical practice and the high quality of Pathology practice in our department.

Over time we strive to build a repository of diverse educational Pathology cases spanning multiple subspecialties, which will serve as an outstanding Pathology education resource on a digital platform to a global audience, not limited in access by geography or cost. We would like to recognize Drs. Rachna Jetly and Grace Athas for spearheading this endeavor.

[Click here](#) to test your Pathology knowledge.

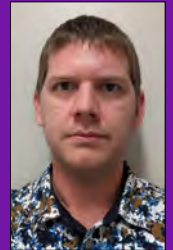
Faculty Promotions



Jonathan Somma, MD
Professor of Clinical
July 1, 2023



Ritu Bhalla, MD
Professor of Clinical
July 1, 2024



Shaun Lawicki, MD
Associate Professor
of Clinical
July 1, 2024

LSUHSC-NO Welcomes Two New Pathologists

Join us in welcoming two new pathologists to the LSUHSC Pathology Department: Ridin Balakrishnan, MD, and Bushra Nazir, MD.

Dr. Balakrishnan joined the Pathology Department as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology. He also serves as a surgical pathologist and gynecologic pathologist at University Medical

Center – New Orleans. As the GYN pathologist, he provides consultations to other pathologists on complex GYN cases and functions as the laboratory liaison to clinicians and the GYN service at UMCNO. In addition to his clinical duties, he supervises residents, fellows and other healthcare professionals in the area of Pathology.



**Ridin
Balakrishnan, MD**

Dr. Nazir also joined the Pathology Department as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology. Additionally, she serves as a surgical pathologist, hematopathologist, and molecular pathologist at University Medical Center – New Orleans. As an expert in hematopathology, she provides consultations to other pathologists on complex hematopathology cases, and assists the hematology/ oncology service clinicians and surgical services to resolve issues in hematopathology and surgical pathology. She also provides technical oversight for the molecular laboratory.



Bushra Nazir, MD

2023 and 2024 Graduates Recognized



Ritu Bhalla, MD poses for pictures with the 2023 graduates, Fernanda da Silva Lameira, MD, and Jack Harbert, MD.

We are proud to announce our 2023 and 2024 LSUHSC Pathology Residency Program graduates! Our 2023 graduates are: Dr. Jack Harbert and Dr. Fernanda da Silva Lameira. Our 2024 graduates are: Zaid Khreefa, MBBCH, Wenjing Qiu, MBBS and Maryam Sadough Shahmirzadi, MD. We are proud to announce that all of the graduates have appeared for the ABPath examination and successfully passed their AP/CP boards!

A recognition dinner was held each year in honor of the graduates at which time each graduate was



Ritu Bhalla, MD poses for pictures with the 2024 graduates, Wenjing Qiu, MBBS, Zaid Khreefa, MBBCH, and Maryam Sadough Shahmirzadi, MD.

presented with a framed graduation certificate.

Dr. Harbert completed a hematopathology fellowship at the University of Minnesota and Dr. Lameira completed a fellowship in forensic pathology at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Dr. Sadough has accepted a Hematopathology Fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri and a Surgical Pathology Fellowship at the University of Indiana. Dr. Khreefa has accepted a Gastrointestinal/Liver & Transplant Pathology Fellowship Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, and Dr. Qiu has accepted a GI Pathology Fellowship at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York.

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

Residents Select Teacher and Support Staff of the Year



Congratulations to our 2023 and 2024 Best Teachers: Ellen Connor, MD, and Shaun Lawicki, MD.

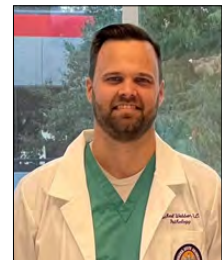


Congratulations to our 2024 Support Staff of the Year: Dot Kuebler, a Histotechnologist at University Medical Center—New Orleans.

2024-2025 Chief Residents Announced



Jihuan Chen, MD



Michael Webber, DO

Congratulations to our new chief residents for the 2024-2025 academic year: Jihuan Chen, MD and Michael Webber, DO!

Residents Perform Well at 2024 USCAP Meeting

What a great show by our department at USCAP! Our two presentations both claimed attention.

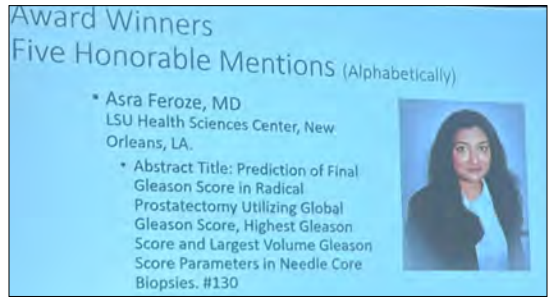


Dr. Haibo Wang, presents her abstract at the USCAP 2024 conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Haibo Wang presented her poster titled, “Should Patients with Incomplete Intestinal Metaplasia in Gastric Biopsies Undergo More Rigorous Follow Up and Surveillance Endoscopy Compared to Those with Complete Gastric Intestinal Metaplasia,” as a platform presentation. She explained to the audience very articulately the results of her study and the impact on patient care. She also received and answered questions in a commendable manner.

Dr. Asra Feroze presented her poster titled, “Prediction of Final

Gleason Score in Radical Prostatectomy Utilizing Global Gleason Score, Highest Gleason Score and Largest Volume Gleason Score Parameters in Needle Core Biopsies.” Her poster was not only presented in the Stowell-Orbison award category of posters but was selected as the first six best posters by the Association of Indian Pathologists in North America (AIPNA). She also received an

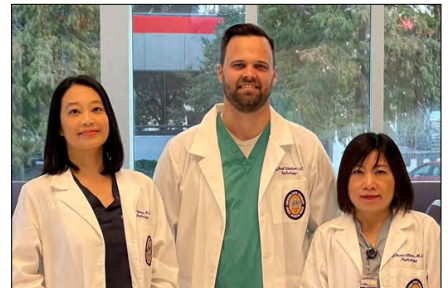


Dr. Asra Feroze, for winning an Honorable Mention Award for her poster at the USCAP 2024 conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Honorable Mention Certificate and cash award for this work.

Residents Accept Fellowships

Congratulations to our residents who accepted fellowships in 2025! Jihuan Chen, MD, has accepted a fellowship in Gastrointestinal Pathology at UC Irvine. Liz Yang, MD, has accepted a fellowship in Gastrointestinal Pathology at University of Rochester, New York, and Michael Webber, DO, has accepted a fellowship in Forensic Pathology at the renowned University of Alabama at Birmingham.



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

Welcome To Our 2024-2025 Pathology Residents



Yaomin Chen, MD
Shanghai Jiao Tong University
School of Medicine
China



Michelle de Jesus Ortíz, MD
University of Medicine and
Health Sciences
St. Kitts



Leila Heidari, MD
Tabriz University of Medical
Sciences
Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Faculty and Residents' Publications

Journal of Clinical Medicine
*Special Issue



“Nailfold Videocapillaroscopic Alterations as Markers of Microangiopathy in COVID-19 Patients”, Roberta Gualtierotti, Sharon Elizabeth Fox, Fernanda Da Silva Lameira, Andrea Giachi, Luca Valenti, Maria Orietta Borghi, Pier Luigi M, Massimo Cugno, Flora Peyvandi. J. Clin. Med. 2023, 12(11), 3727; <https://doi.org/10.3390/jcm12113727>

“Sertoli cell nodule”, Julia Rivera, MD, Ritu Bhalla, MD. Pathology Outlines 2023; <https://www.pathologyoutlines.com/topic/testisertolihyperplasia.html>

Pathology Outlines



Testicular Torsion, Bhalla R. Pathology Outlines. <https://www.pathologyoutlines.com/topic/testistorsion.html>

Feroze A, Bhalla R: Condyloma acuminata, Penis and Scrotum. Pathology Outlines. <https://www.pathologyoutlines.com/topic/penscrotumcondyloma.html>

Diagnostic Pathology



“Acute neutrophilic vasculitis (leukocytoclasia) in 36 COVID-19 autopsy brains,” Roy H. Rhodes, Gordon L. Love, Fernanda Da Silva Lameira, Maryam Sadough Shahmirzadi, Sharon E. Fox, Richard S. Vander Heide. Diagn Pathol 19, 33 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13000-024-01445-w>

World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery



Blastomas of the digestive system in adults: A review.” Liu Y, El Jabbour T, Somma J, Nakanishi Y, Ligato S, Lee H, Fu ZY. World J Gastrointest Surg 2024; 16(4): 1030-104; <https://www.wjgnet.com/1948-9366/coretip/v16/i4/1030.html>

Residents' Abstracts Presented at Professional Meetings

CAP 2023



- “Correlation between prostatic specific antigen level and tumor burden in prostatic carcinoma grade group”, Maryam Sadough, MD , Angelle Leger, MD, Haibo Wang, MD, Ritu Bhalla, MD. CAP 2023
- “Giant Vascular Eccrine Spiradenoma - A Rare Variant Presentation of Cutaneous Adnexal Tumor”, Asra Feroze, MBBS; Michael Forte, BS (LSU Medical Student); Todd M. Leleux, MD. CAP 2023
- “Rare Candida metapsilosis Septicemia and Brain Micro-abscesses with A Fatal Outcome”, Asra Feroze, MBBS; Gordon L. Love, MD; Luis Del Valle, MD; Ellen E. Connor, MD, PhD. CAP 2023
- “Post-acute Covid-19 Dermal Endotheliitis: A Case Series Characterizing a Novel Diagnostic Entity”, Jihuan Chen, MD, PhD, Liz Yang, MD, Sharon Fox, MD, PhD. CAP 2023
- “A Metastatic Gastrointestinal Stroma Tumor (GIST) in Liver Shows Discordance Between Protein Expression and Gene Mutation”, Jihuan Chen, MD, PhD, Zaid Khreefa, MD, Jonathan Somma, MD, Zhiyan Fu, MD. CAP 2023

USCAP 2024



- "Should Patients with Incomplete Intestinal Metaplasia in Gastric Biopsies Undergo More Rigorous Follow Up and Surveillance Endoscopy Compared to Those with Complete Gastric Intestinal Metaplasia", Haibo Wang, BMBS, PhD, Asra Feroze, MBBS, Yu Liu, MD, PhD. Platform Poster Presentation USCAP 2024
- "Prediction of Final Gleason Score in Radical Prostatectomy Utilizing Global Gleason Score, Highest Gleason Score and Largest Volume Gleason Score Parameters in Needle Core Biopsies", Asra Feroze, MBBS, Julia River, MD, Yu Liu, MD, PhD, Haibo Wang, BMBS, PhD. Poster Presentation USCAP 2024

LSUHSC-NO Resident Alumni Accept New Positions



Nicole Jackson, MD



Katherine Wang, MD



Nibras Fakhri, MBBS

Pathology resident alumni, Nicole Jackson, MD, MPH, Nibras Fakhri, MBBS, and Katherine Wang, MD accept positions in Pathology.

Dr. Nicole Jackson accepted new position at the University of Washington as an Assistant Professor and the Director of Autopsy and After Death Services. Dr. Katherine Wang accepted a position as a staff pathologist at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Affairs Hospital, and Dr. Nibras Fakhri accepted a position at Phoenix Pathologists Ltd, based at Banner University Medical Center in Phoenix where she will be practicing medical kidney, cytology and general surgical pathology.

Congratulations on this new chapter! We look forward to following your careers and learning about your new endeavors.

The Department of Pathology Remembers Two Faculty Alumni

We are saddened to announce that two dedicated faculty members passed away over the last year: William (Bill) Newman, III, MD and Carolyn Sue Walters, MHS, MT(ASCP).



William (Bill) Newman, III, MD

Dr. Newman passed away on May 9, 2023 at the age of 81. He graduated from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and LSU Medical School. He completed a pathology residency in the LSU program at Charity Hospital and then joined the LSU School of Medicine faculty as a board certified pathologist. He retired as a Professor Emeritus of Pathology in 2017 after 46 years of service.

Over the course of his prestigious career, Dr. Newman taught medical students, supervised pathology residents at Charity Hospital and the coroner's office, performed over 10,000 autopsies, and was an active researcher.

In order to carry on his legacy, his family has established an endowed scholarship in his memory. The Dr. William P. Newman III scholarship is bestowed yearly on a deserving medical student. Memorials in his honor may be directed to The Dr. William P. Newman III Endowed Scholarship Fund for the School of Medicine at LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans. Donations can be mailed to LSU Health Foundation, 2000 Tulane Ave., New Orleans LA 70112. Checks can be made payable to "LSU Health Foundation," with the reference "Newman" or an online donation can be made by visiting <https://give.lsuhealthfoundation.org/newman>.

Carolyn Sue Walters passed away on April 15, 2024. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Mississippi State College which was followed by a 12-month internship at the School of Medical Technology at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. Sue was then awarded a Master of Health Sciences degree at LSU

School of Allied Health Sciences in New Orleans. In 1970 she was appointed to the faculty of the Department of Pathology at LSU Medical School.

Ms Walters taught second year medical students for over 30 years and received the 2005 Aesculapian "Excellence in Teaching Award". She served a term as President of both the New Orleans Society for Medical Technologists and the Louisiana State Society for Medical Technologists. She also served on the Board of Governors of the Board of Registry (the American Society for Clinical Pathology certifying body for the medical technologists). She was awarded the Associate Member "Lifetime Achievement Award". In her retirement, she took the opportunity to write a book, "A Broad Abroad's Photo Journal: Life with the U.S. Army Service Clubs in 1960's Germany," about her experiences with the U.S. Army Service Clubs.



Carolyn Sue Walters, MHS, MT(ASCP)

Pamela Martin, MD Receives LAISHF Award



Pamela Martin, MD

Congratulations to Dr. Pamela Martin for receiving the Dr. John Adriani Medical Award from the Louisiana American Italian Sports Hall of Fame for 2023! Dr. Martin is founder and partner of Martin And Marshall Laboratory of Dermatopathology and head of the Dermatopathology section at LSU Department of Dermatology.

Dr. Adriani's impact on the medical field is profound. This award recognizes excellence in medical contributions within the context of sports and athleticism.

William Rohr, MD (LSU '80, LSU Residency '84) Retires *Shares highlights in his career and hobby in astroimaging*

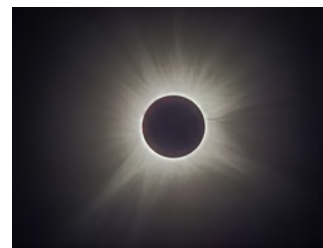
I began the AP/CP program at LSU in 1980 after graduation from LSUMC-New Orleans and serving a one year clinical internship at the then Lafayette Charity Hospital. What I enjoyed most about my residency was the many teaching opportunities afforded the residents. This included lectures for the medical students, allied health students and in my case, urology residents. Reviewing for the AP/CP boards with two other fourth year residents, Pam Martin and David Kearns, was also fun to do for the 5 months leading up to the exams administered in San Francisco. Two months in Baton Rouge doing community pathology, a CAP inspection in Monroe and assisting at CAP meetings in New Orleans were also fun. Many years later, this is what I remember best. I also remember that typewriters were the norm. There was no computer word processing, no cell phones, no internet and no social media. Residency in the early 1980s was a very different experience.

At the end of residency, I moved to Texas for a one year fellowship in forensic pathology at the Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office. Application to this program was recommended to me by the LSU staff. It turned out to be good advice. Then off to Iowa as its State Medical Examiner in Des Moines. But what I really wanted to do was to start a new medical examiner's office much as my mentor in Dallas, Charles Petty, had done. I was selected to do this for Collin County, Texas which is immediately north of Dallas County. So I left Iowa after 14 months.

Collin population was approximately 220,000 in 1986. First day on the job the County Commissioners had me sit down with an architect and plan a medical examiner facility. It was occupied in March 1988. Expansion was done 2006. I retired in April 2023 on my 70th birthday when the county population was 1.2 million. However, I am still doing private consulting on a limited basis and have trials, both criminal and civil, to testify for, so not completely retired. Forensic pathology has a way of hanging around even in retirement.

When I moved back to Texas my hospital pathology days were over. All I had to microscopically examine was autopsy tissue. Medical examiner work is high profile and in the public eye. The way I dealt with this was maintain good PR for the office and above all keep

a low profile. This is how I survived for 36 years. There were no crises or scandals which seem to affect some medical examiners. There were many personal rewards. Much of this came from working with UT Southwestern Transplant Services. I served



Dr. Rohr captures an eclipse with his astroimager.

on its advisory committee for many years. I'm very proud of the amount of tissue harvested from the medical examiner's office and the effort put into this not only from me but all of the employees in the office. We helped many people.

With the career I had I still managed to cultivate hobbies. I did sailing on a nearby Texas reservoir for several years. As you can see from the photos I do astroimaging out of my own observatory. This is in far west Texas where my wife and I have a second home near the

McDonald Observatory. Looking back, I'm glad I have taken the time to cultivate other interests. It appears the astroimaging bug is not going away anytime soon.



Dr. Bill Rohr poses for picture with his telescope.

Thank you to our alumni who presented at our grand rounds series and who are involved in resident teaching.

Pathology Grand Round Series:

- Dr. Nicole Jackson presented "Examining Healthcare Disparities Among Incarcerated Populations Through a Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Lens".
- Dr. Caroline Alquist presented "Graft vs. Host Disease in Solid Organ Transplant"

Resident education:

- Dr. Bing Han—Dermatopathology lectures
- Dr. Christopher Girardo— Informatics lectures
- Dr. Caroline Alquist— Transfusion Medicine

Any alumni interested in lecturing to our residents should contact Elizabeth Monnin at esoroe@lsuhsc.edu.

Events and Celebrations



Grad party!!!



Welcome aboard
Drs. Nazir, Balakrishnan
and Fu!



China's moon
cakes



A wedding
send-off...



Happy Halloween!



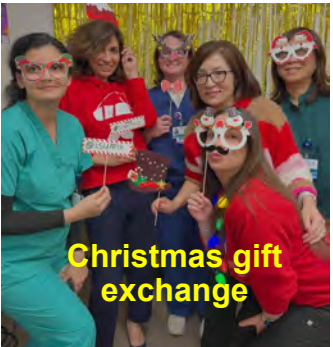
Showering
Aara Feroze



Thank you for your service
Michael!



Diwali Breakfast



Christmas gift
exchange



Happy Lab Week!



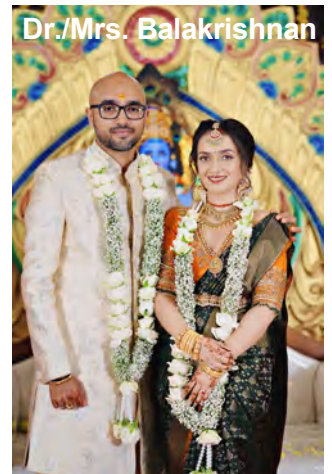
Welcome
Ameerah
Feroze!



Dr. Lorusso's
king cake, yum!



Happy Holi!



Dr./Mrs. Balakrishnan