

To World Pathology Foundation

Report from Alexandre Nakao Odashiro.

Fellowship at Ocular Pathology Laboratory McGill University, Montreal, Canada.
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First of all I'd like to thank The World Pathology Foundation for the 2009 Gordon Signy Foreign Fellowship. Without this fellowship it would be very difficult for me to accept this opportunity. And I'd like to thank Dr Miguel Burnier and all his team for receiving me so kindly. I learned a lot during my stay in his lab and I'll use all this knowledge here in Brazil.

January was the month chosen for the fellowship due to the spot available at the Laboratory as well as my vacation from the Medical School where I teach in Brazil.

It was really cold in Montreal, very different from the Brazilian weather.

Dr Miguel Burnier received us very kindly in his laboratory and introduced us to everybody that works with him in the ocular pathology and research.

The laboratory is really nice and roomy. There are many people working there including fellows (from Venezuela), students from Master and Ph.D. degree, technicians, etc.

The people were very kind and showed me all the facilities.

The Ocular Pathology Laboratory performs several kinds of molecular biology techniques including cell culture, proliferation and invasion tests, PCR, Western blot, Elisa, and can perform genetic analysis such as comparative genomic hybridization. They also have confocal microscopy and an automated immunostain machine (Ventana) just for research. The possibilities of the laboratory are really great and they produce lot of work and research. They perform several kinds of animal models to study ocular diseases including cancer (especially uveal melanoma) and degenerative diseases.

From the Ocular Pathology field, I reviewed several interesting cases received in the routine and in consultation. I studied several cases and checked them with Dr Burnier and fellows. It was really great as we discussed eyelid, conjunctival, intraocular and orbital lesions. Lymphoid and epithelial lesions were more common, but we also discussed Uveal Melanoma and Retinoblastoma.

I also reviewed the archive cases and discussed some of them with Dr Burnier.

From the research field, I went together with the Ph.D. students to the cell culture and learned the principles from invasion and proliferation tests. I also did an immunostain for extracellular proteins in an animal model of uveal melanoma, treated with COX-2. The paper is really nice and I'll send it for congress presentation and publication. I also read several slides from other papers in Uveal Melanoma and CNV membranes (from age related macular degeneration).

As one of the co-chair from the Ocular Pathology Section from the 2010 IAP Congress in Brazil, Dr Burnier and I went together to decide the topics and names for the section. We discussed what would be the most important topics to be considered for the congress, and also the persons that have the knowledge on each topic and would consider coming to Brazil. It took several meetings between

myself and Dr Burnier but in the end we have decided most of the organization of the section.

It was a really important period in my life that I spent in Montreal and I'd like to thank The World Pathology Foundation for this opportunity.