Special Section—Houston Society of Clinical Pathologists 2017 Annual Spring Symposium, Part I

The 58th Annual Symposium of the Houston Society of Clinical Pathologists

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This special section is a compilation of 6 articles that are based on the lectures presented at the 58th Annual Spring Symposium of the Houston Society of Clinical Pathologists (HSCP), Houston, Texas, which took place at the Houstonian Hotel on April 8, 2017. The HSCP was established in 1948 to stimulate scientific research as well as to apply the science of pathology toward the betterment of patient care. The Annual Spring Symposium is one of several educational events hosted by the HSCP throughout the year. The 58th Annual Symposium was focused on genitourinary (GU) pathology with the following aims: (1) provide an update on the new developments in the 2016 World Health Organization (WHO) Classification System and the 8th edition AJCC Cancer Staging Manual for the GU tumors, including prostate, bladder, kidney, and testicular cancers; (2) develop a pragmatic approach to the diagnosis of clinically relevant new entities; (3) improve the effectiveness of using immunohistochemical markers in GU tumors; (4) introduce new molecular and genomic tests as diagnostic, prognostic, and predictive markers; and (5) discuss the strengths and weaknesses of new molecular tests.

Twelve distinguished pathologists from the Houston metropolitan area as well as from across the nation delivered a series of lectures on GU pathology at the 58th Annual Symposium. Three lectures were focused on prostate cancer, including “Essential Updates in Grading, Morphotyping, Reporting, and Staging of Prostate Carcinoma for General Surgical Pathologists” by Mahul Amin, MD; “The Pathologist’s Role in Active Surveillance of Prostate Cancer” by Thomas Wheeler, MD; and “Moving Beyond Gleason Scoring” by Gustavo Ayala, MD. Lectures on bladder cancer were provided: “Urinary Bladder Pathology: An Update on the WHO 2016 Classification” by Jesse McKenney, MD, and “Bladder Cancer in the Genomic Era” by Bogdan Czerniak, MD, PhD. There were 2 lectures on kidney cancer: “The 2016 WHO Renal Tumor Classification: New and Evolving Entities” by Pete Argani, MD, and “Histologic Diagnosis of Renal Mass Biopsy” by Steven Shen, MD, PhD. Thomas Ulbright, MD, updated the audiences with a lecture on “Recent and Clinically Important Entities in Testis Tumors,” and George Netto, MD, discussed “Urologic Malignancies in the Era of Precision Medicine.” The scientific symposium ended with excellent case discussions presented by Mukul Divatia, MD, Jamie Everett, MD, Vijayalakshmi Padmanabhan, MD, and Miao Zhang, MD, PhD. This special section, split into Part I and Part II, includes 6 articles by the speakers and their collaborators, which highlight the key points in the lectures.

In addition to the scientific symposium, an accompanying meeting regarding prostate cancer for patients and advocates was also held. In this meeting, pathologists met with patients and discussed everything patients need to know about their pathology diagnosis. A group of urologists and oncologists also joined the meeting and updated surveil-
lance and treatment options available for patients with prostate cancer.

The HSCP dedicated the 58th HSCP Annual Symposium to Alberto G. Ayala, MD (Figure), the foremost GU pathologist in Texas, in recognition of his many distinguished accomplishments. After receiving his medical degree from The University of Nuevo León (Monterey, Nuevo León, Mexico), Dr Ayala started an illustrious pathology career in Texas half a century ago, first as a pathology fellow and then as a faculty member at MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC), Houston, Texas. During his more than 30 years of practice at MDACC, he held several leadership positions including director of Surgical Pathology, deputy chairman of Pathology, and acting head of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Division. After a brief retirement, he was invited to join the Department of Pathology in The Methodist Hospital, Houston, Texas, in 2004, where he has also served as deputy chairman. Dr Ayala has published more than 500 articles and numerous book chapters. He has received many awards, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award from MDACC, Arthur Purdy Stout Award from the American Society of Surgical Pathologists, and the Harlan Spjut Award from HSCP. He has mentored many pathologists, who have made significant contributions to the field of pathology and become leaders in our pathology community. Dr Ayala has been a role model for multiple generations of pathologists in Texas as well as across the country.

Charles C. Guo, MD

Charles C. Guo, MD, is a professor of pathology at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston. He received his medical degree from Qingdao University Medical College (Shandong, China) in 1990 and MS degree from Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (Beijing, China) in 1993. He then came to the United States for postgraduate training in laboratory research. He started his residency training in anatomic and clinical pathology at New York University Medical Center (New York City) in 2001. After residency training, he received fellowship training in genitourinary (GU) pathology with Jonathan Epstein, MD, at Johns Hopkins Hospital (Baltimore, Maryland). He joined the Department of Pathology at MD Anderson Cancer Center as an assistant professor in 2006. As a member of the GU pathology section at MD Anderson, he evaluates a variety of GU neoplastic diseases, including complex cases from all over the world. His research interests are mainly focused on analyzing genomic profiles of different urothelial carcinoma variants as well as gene translocation in prostate cancer. In addition, he is involved in several multidisciplinary research programs. His research efforts have led to more than 100 scientific articles and book chapters. As a recognized expert in GU pathology, he frequently presents at national and international meetings and reviews manuscripts for a number of peer-reviewed journals.

Jae Y. Ro, MD, PhD

Jae Y. Ro, MD, PhD, received his medical and doctoral degrees from Yonsei University School of Medicine (Seoul, South Korea) in 1969 and 1973, respectively. After pathology residency training at Yonsei University Severance Hospital (Seoul, South Korea), he received additional residency training in anatomic and clinical pathology at Case Western Reserve University Institute of Pathology (Cleveland, Ohio). He then completed surgical pathology fellowship at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC) (Houston) in 1985 and remained there as an assistant professor. He became a full professor at MDACC in 1992 and served as the program director of surgical pathology fellowship for 6 years. In 1998 he became the chairman of anatomic pathology at Ulsan University Asan Medical Center (Seoul, South Korea). In 2005, Dr Ro moved back to Houston and joined the Department of Pathology at Houston Methodist Hospital (Houston, Texas), where he is currently the director of surgical pathology. He is also a professor of pathology at Weill Medical School of Cornell University (New York City, New York). Dr Ro has received numerous awards: The Educator of the Year from MDACC in 2001; Harlan J. Spjut Award from the Houston Society of Clinical Pathologists in 2007; Lifetime Academic Achievement Award from Yonsei University College of Medicine in 2010; Faculty of the Year Award from Houston Methodist Hospital in 2012; Certificate of Appreciation from International Society of Urological Pathology in 2013; Outstanding Faculty Award and Academic Excellence Award from Houston Methodist Hospital in 2016 and 2017; Mentor Award from Pulmonary Pathology Society in 2017, and 2018 CAP Resident Advocate Award. He is a section editor and member of the executive advisory board for the Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine. He is an editorial board member for Advances in Anatomic Pathology, Annals of Diagnostic Pathology, Human Pathology, and The Korean Journal of Pathology. He has served as a reviewer for numerous other journals including Urology, Modern Pathology, and The American Journal of Surgical Pathology. He has published more than 700 scientific articles, 6 books, and 50 book chapters.