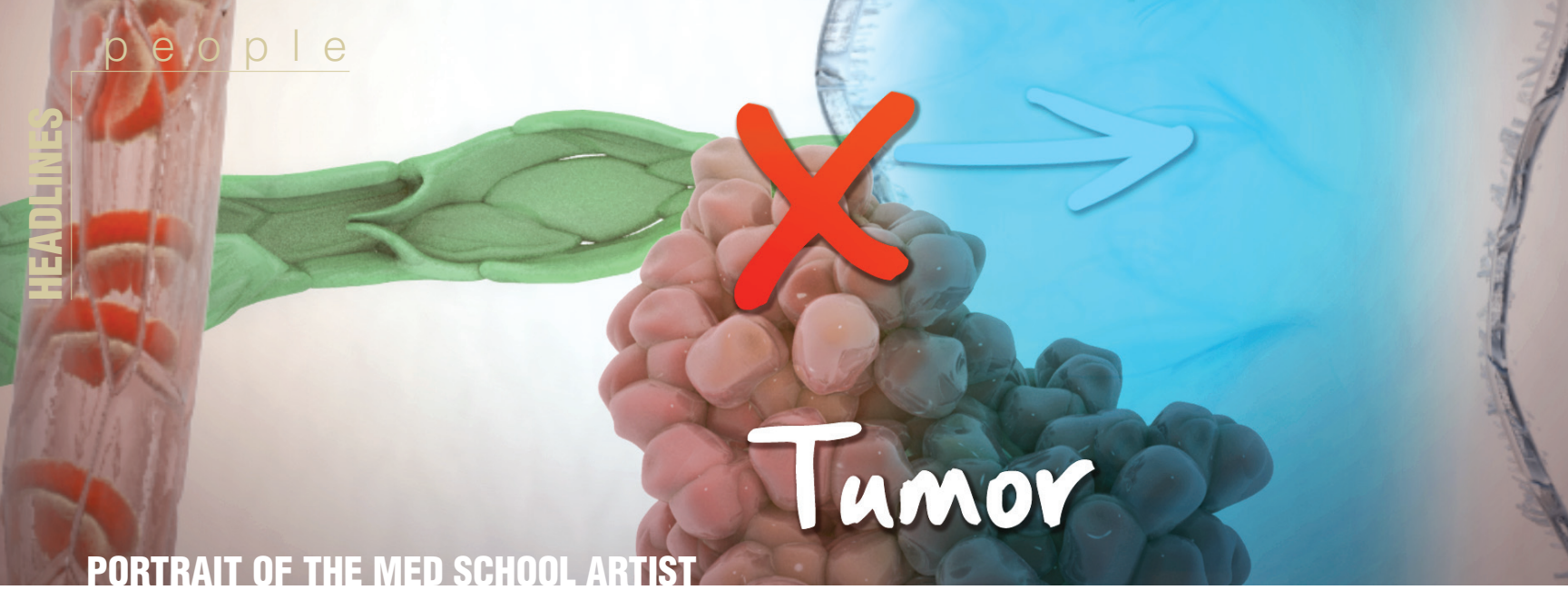

PORTRAIT OF THE MED SCHOOL ARTIST

Jodi Slade disagrees with those who think artists and scientists inhabit separate universes. She should know, because she graduated from Florida State University in 2008 with a science degree and an art degree – and uses both in her role as medical illustrator for the College of Medicine.


Jodi Slade

"People think the ability to draw is the biggest hump when it comes to being a scientific illustrator," Slade said. "It's actually being able to SEE something and then interpret that information, or make the analogy that everybody can understand. Many doctors and scientists have that ability already."

Her master's program at Johns Hopkins Medical School seamlessly blended art and science for would-be medical illustrators.

"We took anatomy with the med students. We got graded as they did. We did the practicums as they did. We dissected as they did," Slade said. "We were indistinguishable from med students for about three months."

In 2011, with her master's in hand, she returned to Tallahassee. Now she works with the faculty to create drawings and videos that make complex biological processes easier to understand.

"I wanted to be able to support the faculty in developing learning materials in various formats," said Instructional Designer Shenifa Taite, Ed.D., Slade's supervisor. "We had in place instructional design, video, audio, web and graphic design, but were missing a critical component. Jodi's training from Johns Hopkins complemented our team with not only medical illustration but also animation, graphic design and some related programming."

Each project pays dividends in a variety of ways.

"The learning materials and other illustrations have reduced the need to replicate a concept from year to year in a given course," Taite said. "The students benefit by being able to review the materials on demand as a reinforcement of the concept or supplement to instruction. Some have directly benefited by using custom animations or illustrations for presentations and publications."

Last year, Slade created a custom animation of "The Pleural Space" for lung specialist Ricardo Gonzalez-Rothi, M.D., chair of the Department of Clinical Sciences. He wrote down his ideas and gave them to Slade. "I was incredibly impressed that she came up with some very innovative ideas. She actually did a motion picture with her computer! I saw her as a colleague, as opposed to somebody who was providing a service."

They passed it back and forth, tweaking and fine-tuning. "I was always incredibly impressed with how she was able to take a concept and apply it in a visually appealing manner."

As of early October, that four-part pleural video had been viewed more than 35,000 times, not just at the medical school's six regional campuses but in India, Australia and elsewhere.

Although she has gotten rave reviews from those who've worked with her, Slade remains something of a secret among the faculty.

"We are preparing a digital gallery of work," Taite said, "for faculty to view and get ideas of what we can offer."

(Link to Slade's work: youtube.com/user/FSUMedMedia)

In this still from one of her animations, Slade shows how a tumor in the lung or chest wall can cause fluid to build in the lungs (pleural effusion).

GLUE VIEW

The illustration below by Jodi Slade helped land Yanchang Wang's research on the March 1 cover of *Molecular Biology of the Cell*. The paper, written by Daniel Richmond, Raed Rizkallah, Fengshan Liang, Myra Hurt and Wang, explored the role that a particular protein plays in yeast cells during cell division. "The kinetochore is the protein structure on chromosomes where the spindle fibers attach during cell division," said Wang, an associate professor. "The most important thing we learned in the paper is that the kinetochores from different chromosomes group together, and that Slk19 protein not only acts as glue to cluster them but also facilitates accurate chromosome segregation."

Slade created this glue image to illustrate Associate Professor Yanchang Wang's research on the cover of *Molecular Biology of the Cell*.