News from the University of Arizona Cancer Center

Our mission is
to prevent and to cure cancer.

Monthly News & Updates - April 2016

Share Your Stories and Ideas

This newsletter is still in its infancy, and it will continue to evolve based on your feedback.

Please send news items, announcements, calls for collaborations, upcoming events, comments, and anything else that you can think of to Cody Cassidy, ccassidy@uacc.arizona.edu.
Message from Dr. Kraft

Hello fellow colleagues,

The Second Annual Scientific Retreat is right around the corner, and I am looking forward to seeing many of you there.

We will view a great deal of impactful research taking place at the Cancer Center, and I encourage you all to come to the retreat with an eye towards collaboration and interaction. There will be a great many opportunities to share resources and ideas, and I am very excited to engage with you all and learn about all of your exciting research.

Like the Scientific Retreat, this newsletter is meant to be another vehicle to drive collaboration and integration. We want to highlight the impactful work that is taking place here at the Cancer Center, and provide you with every opportunity to hear about your colleagues and share ideas.

Enjoy,

Andrew S. Kraft, MD
Director of the University of Arizona Cancer Center
Sydney E. Salmon Endowed Chair
Associate Vice President for Oncology Programs for UAHS
Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Hematology/Oncology
Senior Associate Dean for Translational Research, College of Medicine
UACC Scientific Retreat
Friday, April 8, 2016
9:00am - 4:30pm
Westward Look Resort
Tucson, AZ

Keynote Speaker:
David R. Piwnica-Worms, MD, PhD
Professor, Department of Cancer Biology
Scientific Director Ad Interim
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Dr. Piwnica's research interests are molecular imaging of signal transduction pathways and protein-protein interactions in vivo; dynamic analysis of the NF-kB, b-catenin and EGFR signaling pathways; genetically-encoded reporters for bioluminescence, PET, and SPECT imaging; high throughput screening with siRNA to functionalize the genome; cell-penetrating activatable near-infrared fluorescent peptides for imaging; therapeutic cell-penetrating peptides; mechanisms and regulation of the ATP-binding cassette (ABC) superfamily of transporter proteins; multidrug resistance in cancer; radiopharmaceutical chemistry; medicinal utility of metal complexes.

Exciting News & Need to Know

We Have Renewed Our Subscription to The Cancer Letter

Sign Up for the Mailing List
The Cancer Letter is a national publication for and about NCI-designated Cancer Centers where science, the funding climate, and other interesting topics are discussed.

Go To The Cancer Letter or Click Here for Help Logging In or Sign Up for the Mailing List

Upcoming Events

Cancer Prevention and Control Seminar

Sleep in Women with Ovarian Cancer: An Introduction to Behavioral Sleep Medicine

Wednesday, April 6, 2016
9:00am
UA Cancer Center, 2920

Patricia Haynes, PhD
Associate Professor, Health Promotion Services
Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health

Tracy E. Crane, MS, RD
Manager, Clinical Services
Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health
Doctoral Candidate, College of Nursing

Disorder sleep is one of the most frequently reported disease- and treatment-related symptoms in patients treated for cancer, with incidence rates ranging from 30-87%. Women with a diagnosis of ovarian cancer report symptoms of sleep disturbance at relatively high levels. This seminar will provide an overview of disorder sleep in women's cancer with an emphasis on ovarian cancer, highlighting preliminary findings of Lifestyle Intervention for Ovarian Cancer Enhanced Survival (LIVES) study (NCT00719303), an ongoing randomized controlled clinical trial evaluating the effect of diet and physical activity on progression free survival. In addition, an overview of behavioral assessment methods and interventions will be provided.

This presentation may be viewed live or at a later time by clicking here.
OPEN HOUSE: Head & Neck Cancer Awareness and Basics of Radiation Therapy in Cancer Care

April 14, 2016
5:00pm-7:00pm
UACC - North
3838 N. Campbell Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85719

Head & Neck Cancer Awareness
Sun Kun Yi, MD
Radiation Oncologist at UACC

Basics of Radiation Therapy in Cancer Care
Krisha Howell, MD
Radiation Oncologist at UACC

Light refreshments will be provided.

Read More

Cancer Seminar Biology Series

Mondays, 9-10am
Kiewit Auditorium, Room 2951

April 4 - TBA
April 11 - Ron Heimark, Phd, Professor, UA Surgery
April 25 - Zhong-Yin Zhang, PhD, Robert C. and Charlotte P. Anderson Chair in Pharmacology Distinguished Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and Head Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology Purdue University (Host: Danzhou Yang)

Contact Anne Cione, cionea@email.arizona.edu, to view this password protected presentation live or archival via http://streaming.biocom.arizona.edu

Spring Course Coordinator: Jean Wilson, PhD
UA Libraries: Workshop for Increasing Openness and Reproducibility in Quantitative Research

Thursday, April 21, 2016
9:00am to 12:00pm
112A Computer Classroom, Main Library,
1510 E. University Blvd, University of Arizona

There are many actions researchers can take to increase the openness and reproducibility of their work. Please join us for a workshop, hosted by the University of Arizona Libraries and the Center for Open Science, to learn easy, practical steps researchers can take to increase the reproducibility of their work. The workshop will be hands-on. Using example studies, attendees will actively participate in creating a reproducible project from start to finish.

Focus: Clinical and Biological Sciences

Topics covered:

- Project documentation
- Version control
- Pre-Analysis plans
- Open source tools like the Center for Open Science's Open Science Framework to easily implement these concepts in a scientific workflow

This workshop is aimed at researchers and graduate students engaged in quantitative research. The workshop does not require any specialized knowledge of programming. Participants will gain a foundation for incorporating reproducible, transparent practices into their current workflows.

Speaker: April Clyburne-Sherin

RSVP, space is limited
UA Libraries: Workshop for Increasing Openness and Reproducibility in Quantitative Research

Friday, April 22, 2016
9:00am to 12:00pm
B109, Roy P. Drachman Hall, 1295 N. Martin Ave, Health Sciences, University of Arizona

There are many actions researchers can take to increase the openness and reproducibility of their work. Please join us for a workshop, hosted by the University of Arizona Libraries and the Center for Open Science, to learn easy, practical steps researchers can take to increase the reproducibility of their work. The workshop will be hands-on. Using example studies, attendees will actively participate in creating a reproducible project from start to finish.

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Metastatic Breast Cancer Grants Program: Identify - Amplify - Unify

The Avon-Pfizer Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC) Grants Program - a partnership with the Avon Breast Cancer Crusade and Pfizer Oncology - will award up to $1 million in grants this year to organizations who serve the MBC community. The recently issued Request for Applications seeks proposals that focus on improving the quality of life for those living with MBC.

As a reminder, letters of intent are due on April 15th. More information and learnings from the first year of the program can be found on the Avon39 website.

Questions can be directed to grants@avonbcc.org.

Please contact: Rachele Peterson, Assistant Director, Research Administration, petersr2@email.arizona.edu, for application and pre-award support

Request for Applications

Clinical Research Oversight Council IIT Request for Funding

The Clinical Research Oversight Council (CROC) has oversight of clinical research activities at the University of Arizona Cancer Center (UACC). One of the responsibilities given to CROC by the UACC Director is to evaluate the resources necessary to support the development of clinical research trials. IIT trial concepts that request UACC funding support must be presented to the CROC for determination of funding.

This is a Request for Applications for supplemental funding for IITs to be performed at UACC. The deadline for applications is April 14. A review of the process, and an application form are attached.
The proposal review will occur on a quarterly basis, with the next meeting scheduled for April 22nd. IIT concepts should be submitted using the provided UACC IIT template or a pharmaceutical company template and limited to no more than 3-5 pages.

Please direct all questions and submissions to Elizabeth McPeak, CROC Administrator.

Elizabeth (Liz) McPeak, MPH
Program Coordinator, Senior
The University of Arizona Cancer Center
1515 N. Campbell Ave., Room 1955
Tucson, AZ 85724-5024
P: 520-626-1155 | 520-626-9001 (fax)

2016-2017 Women's Cancers Grants Request for Applications

The Better Than Ever (BTE) training program - a fitness training and fundraising program designed to help people make walking, running or biking a regular part of their lives - raises funds primarily to support women's cancers (Breast and Gynecologic Cancers) research within the University of Arizona Cancer Center.

As an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, investigator-initiated clinical trials are an important focus at the UACC. To facilitate the distribution of these funds, the University of Arizona Cancer Center's Division of Women's Cancers is activating a Request for Applications (RFA):

**Pilot Grant:** Seed money to support investigator-initiated clinical trials in women's cancers designed by faculty who are University of Arizona Cancer Center members.

[Click Here for Further Details]
The National Cancer Institute (NCI) intends to publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the NCI Youth Enjoy Science (YES) Program as part of the Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) Program.

The goal of this R25 program is to support educational activities that complement and/or enhance the training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs.

The primary focus of this initiative is on providing research experiences. Based on the success of the previous NCI Cancer Center Supplements for High School and Undergraduate Student Research Experiences (P30S), this FOA will support efforts to create and maintain an institutional program to engage grade 6-12 and undergraduate students from underrepresented populations in cutting edge cancer research. The proposed institutional programs may also provide research experiences for K-12 teachers and undergraduate faculty members who serve underrepresented student populations.

The overall goals are to inspire interest in biomedical sciences, help envision research as a career path, and strengthen practical research and career skills. In alignment with these goals, institutions may develop unique programs that capitalize on their research strengths and are responsive to their target populations.

This Notice is being provided to allow potential applicants sufficient time to develop meaningful collaborations, identify program faculty, and create responsive research education programs.

Notice Number: NOT-CA-16-028  Click Here for Full Details
The 2016 Free to Breathe Research Grant Competition is Now Open!

LETTER OF INTENT DEADLINE: APRIL 22, 2016 AT 5PM EST

Free to Breathe is pleased to announce the opening of our 2016 Metastasis Research Grant competition. Now in its second year, our Metastasis Research Grant funds projects that focus on preventing or stopping lung cancer metastasis. Our goal is to fund research that will lead to treatments for patients with lung cancer that will ultimately increase survival. Investigators engaged in research of metastases of lung cancer that has potential for clinical applications are encouraged to apply.

AREA OF INTEREST

Free to Breathe will only consider Letters of Intent (LOI) proposing research to prevent or stop lung cancer metastasis including a clear vision and plan for clinical translation within 3 years. We are interested in (but are not limited to) proposals with:

- Interdisciplinary, collaborative teams and two or more Principal Investigators (PIs)
- Collaborations with industry partners; the PIs, however, must be employed at a not-for-profit entity (such as an academic or research institution)
- Access to existing patient samples or data, especially tissue from metastatic sites
- Studies that include mechanistic investigations into the underlying causes of metastasis
- Studies that are distinct research components of new or existing clinical trials
- Novel approaches for preventing brain metastasis

At the time of application, the PIs must hold a doctoral degree (MD, PhD, DO, DrPH, or equivalent), and be independent investigators at or above the level of Assistant Professor (or equivalent). Sponsoring institutions must be not-for-profit institutions located within the United States.

View or Download the Request for Proposals
The Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) is pleased to announce a Request for Applications for PCF Challenge Awards for investigations of metastatic, lethal prostate cancer. These awards will be funded depending on the level of innovation in applications received. High risk, currently unfunded projects are most desired.

Read More

New to the UACC Family

Jennifer S. Carew, PhD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Co-Director of the Hematologic Malignancy Disease Team

Dr. Carew has 15 years of research experience in basic and translational hematology and oncology. She is an award-winning translational cancer researcher with expertise in experimental cancer therapeutics, mechanisms of cell death and drug resistance, \textit{in vitro} and \textit{in vivo} preclinical investigation of developmental cancer therapeutics, Phase I clinical trial design, and clinical trial correlates.

Dr. Carew comes to the University of Arizona from the Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute where she worked in the Department of Translational Hematology and Oncology Research. Prior to that, she served for six years as the Co-Director of Preclinical Research for the Institute for Drug Development at the Cancer Therapy and Research Center, University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. While there, she worked extensively evaluating the preclinical activity and mechanism of action of novel cancer therapeutics in cell lines, primary patient specimens, and mouse models of cancer.
Dr. Carew received a BS in Zoology from the College of Letters and Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Over the tenure of her career, Dr. Carew has developed a track record for strong industry collaborations focused on investigational drugs, strategies to translate preclinical findings into clinical trials, and development of rational correlative studies in support of clinical trials.

Dr. Carew holds two U.S. patents for novel anti-cancer agents.

**Please give Dr. Carew a warm welcome to the UA Cancer Center family!**

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**Steffan Todd Nawrocki, PhD**  
*Associate Professor of Medicine*  
*Translational Research Director for Medical Oncology*

Dr. Nawrocki focuses his research on the evaluation of the molecular mechanisms of action of novel experimental cancer therapeutics with an emphasis on targeting protein degradation. His current research interests include investigation of oncolytic reovirus for cancer therapy, enhancing proteasome inhibitor-induced apoptosis, and evaluating the role that autophagy plays during cancer progression and drug resistance.

Dr. Nawrocki joins the University of Arizona Cancer Center from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio where he served in multiple roles more than eight years. His most recent position was Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine and Director of Preclinical Research for the Institute for Drug Development at the Cancer Therapy and Research Center. Dr. Nawrocki has been recognized for his work on multiple occasions, including being named a Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Scholar in 2010.

Dr. Nawrocki holds a BS in Biological Sciences from the University of Mississippi and a MS in Biological Sciences, with an emphasis on Toxicology, from the University of Memphis. He earned his PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He holds a U.S. patent for a novel anti-cancer agent and has been a scientific reviewer for multiple publications, including *Molecular Cancer*, the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, the *International Journal of Cancer*, and *Blood*. 
Please give Dr. Nawrocki a warm welcome to the UACC Family!

Call for Collaborations

This section is intended to provide a platform for UACC Members to propose collaborative efforts with each other. Any and all ideas are welcome. Contact Cody Cassidy with your proposal to be posted here.

Visit the UACC Website

University of Arizona Cancer Center
1515 N. Campbell Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85724

STAY CONNECTED: