News from the University of Arizona Cancer Center

Monthly News & Updates - May 2016
Message from Dr. Kraft

Fellow colleagues,

I want to thank everyone for a great 2nd Annual Scientific Retreat. The turnout was superb, I saw a lot of great research projects, and I hope that a number of you were inspired to collaborate on new and existing research. We will be looking for ideas to take this meeting to the next level in the coming year. Please let us know.

I would like to encourage you all to keep in mind the work that others are doing and not to hesitate in being creative when thinking of ways to collaborate. Some of the best work comes from the unexpected and untried ideas in collaboration.

The month of May is Skin Cancer Awareness month, and living in Arizona makes this particularly relevant to our Cancer Center. The Skin Cancer Institute is hard at work with a number of education and outreach initiatives, and I am very appreciative of the great work that they do with our community.

Finally, I would like to announce that the Cancer Imaging Program retreat is scheduled to take place on May 24. This is another wonderful opportunity for our Cancer Center colleagues to engage, to learn, and to collaborate. For those of you whose research can or does benefit from the Cancer Imaging Program, I look forward to seeing you there.

Make sure to take advantage of this spring weather, and happy and safe travels. I know that with summer many are busy with graduation and travel with family.

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
The 14th Annual Sydney E. Salmon Award Lecture

Thursday, May 12, 2016  
@ 12 noon  
Kiwi Auditorium

Sydney E. Salmon, MD, joined the faculty of the University of Arizona in 1972 and was appointed founding director of the Arizona Cancer Center in 1976. In 1989, he was named Regents Professor of Medicine. The Cancer Center's Sydney E. Salmon, MD, Building, formally dedicated in January 1998, was named by the Arizona Board of Regents to honor Dr. Salmon, who died of complications related to pancreatic cancer in October 1999.

The Sydney E. Salmon, MD, Awards, which recognize Cancer Center faculty members for their leadership in cancer research, grant support, publications, community service and clinical responsibilities, were established to honor and remember Dr. Salmon and are presented annually as close as possible to May 8, his birthday.

Distinguished Investigator Award  
Cynthia Thomson, PhD, RD

Director, Cancer Prevention and Control Program, University of Arizona Cancer Center  
Professor, Health Promotion Sciences, Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, University of Arizona
May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month

Throughout the month of May, people are doing their part to raise awareness about skin cancer. The key to avoiding skin cancer is prevention (avoiding too much sun, covering up, using sunscreen). Early detection is the next best step. When skin cancer is caught early, it is usually very treatable.

Dates to remember:
• **Melanoma Monday, May 2:** Start the month off by raising awareness about this deadly disease. Melanoma is an aggressive form of skin cancer that when left untreated can spread rapidly to other areas of the body.
• **Don't Fry Day, May 27:** Overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun and tanning beds causes skin cancer. The National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention has designated the Friday before Memorial Day as "Don't Fry Day" to encourage sun safety awareness, and to remind everyone to protect their skin while enjoying the outdoors.

Join the SCI in celebrating the month of May by protecting and checking your skin!
Exciting News & Need to Know

Congratulations to the 2nd Annual Scientific Retreat Award Winners!

Adam Watson - Best Oral Presentation
Nathan Sweeney - Best Poster Presentation

Both graduate students received a $500 voucher to help support conference travel and attendance.

Congrats!
Rick Kittles, PhD, Takes the Reins as New Chairperson of the AACR's Minorities in Cancer Research Council

Minorities in Cancer Research (MICR) is a membership group within the AACR committed to preventing and curing cancer while meeting the professional needs and advancing the careers of minority scientists.

The MICR Council acts as an advisory body to the AACR leadership on issues of concern to minority investigators and is also responsible for organizing the activities of MICR through its committees. The council is made up of 13 members who are elected to serve on the council for three-year terms. The council elects a chairperson and approximately three new council members annually.

Congrats!

Cody Cassidy Elected to the National Steering Committee of NCI Public Affairs and Marketing Network

The Public Affairs and Marketing Network is a cooperative venture of academically based comprehensive, clinical, basic and consortium cancer centers as designated by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) or that are members of the Association of American Cancer Institutes. The Network works in close association with the NCI's Office of Media Relations and Public Affairs to further public awareness of cancer research, prevention, detection and treatment. The Network was established to share information and resources among the communications and marketing professionals at cancer centers to enhance understanding of the nation's cancer research effort; and to collectively address critical issues of common concern.
Dr. Cynthia Thomson Receives UA Distinguished Outreach Faculty Award

The award recognizes outstanding faculty whose scholarship-based outreach to the state, nation and the world has demonstrated sustained excellence in the University's outreach mission.

Cynthia Thomson, PhD, RDN, professor of health promotion sciences in the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, has received the UA Distinguished Outreach Faculty Award for 2016.

The award recognizes outstanding faculty whose scholarship-based outreach to the state, nation and the world has demonstrated sustained excellence in the University's outreach mission.

Dr. Thomson is a doctoral trained nutrition scientist and registered dietitian who serves as director of the college's Canyon Ranch Center for Prevention and Health Promotion, a center whose mission is to support a healthier Tucson community. The center has reached thousands of youth with health promotion messaging including outreach through the Health2BMe Summer camp for kids, the Tucson Marathon Family Fitness Festival and previously through the Healthy Children Arizona school-based education program.

She also directs the Arizona Department of Health Services-funded Arizona Smokers' Helpline, or ASHLine, a direct service program for the public to support smoking cessation and chronic disease risk reduction.

Dr. Thomson co-leads the Cancer Prevention and Control program at the UA Cancer Center and is a member of the UA BIO5 Institute. Her research and programming efforts are designed to reduce the risk for chronic disease associated with lifestyle behavior choices. Currently, Dr. Thomson, along with other UA researchers, leads the largest national study of lifestyle behaviors ever undertaken in ovarian cancer, one of the more lethal cancers diagnosed in women. The LIVES study is designed to test the role of diet and activity in increasing survival after an ovarian cancer diagnosis.

Dr. Thomson has a passion for mentoring, having trained more than 60 students and young professionals to achieve their professional goals and to serve their communities.
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

Skin Cancer Institute Hosting 2nd Annual Skin Cancer Prevention Friends (SPF) Luncheon

Monday, May 9, 2016
12-2pm
Hacienda del Sol Guest Ranch and Resort

Guest Speaker
Sancy Leachman, MD, PhD
Professor & Chair, Department of Dermatology
Director, Melanoma & Skin Cancer Program
Knight Cancer Institute, Oregon Health & Science University

Learn More
Open House: Skin Cancer and Brain Cancer

May 17, 2016
5:00pm - 7:00pm
UACC North
3838 N. Campbell Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85719

Skin Cancer
Dr. Clara Curiel-Lewandroski MD and Dr. David Alberts, MD

Brain Cancer
Dr. Baldassarre Stea MD, PhD, FASTRO

Cancer Imaging Retreat

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

More information to follow!

Current Funding Opportunities
Damon Runyon Innovation Award

The Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award is designed to provide support for the next generation of exceptionally creative thinkers with "high-risk/high-reward" ideas that have the potential to significantly impact our understanding of and/or approaches to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of cancer.

The Innovation Award is specifically designed to provide funding to extraordinary early career researchers who have an innovative new idea but lack sufficient preliminary data to obtain traditional funding. It is not designed to fund incremental advances. The research supported by the award must be novel, exceptionally creative and, if successful, have the strong potential for high impact in the cancer field.

Awards are made to institutions for support of the Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Investigators. All awards are approved by the Board of Directors of the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation acting upon the recommendation of the Innovation Award Committee.

Application Deadline July 1

The Stage 1 award will be for two years, $150,000 per year ($300,000 total) with the opportunity for up to two additional years of funding (up to four years total for $600,000). Stage 2 support for years three and four will be granted to those awardees who demonstrate progress on their proposed research during years one and two of the award. Applicants will provide a written update on their research and present their progress in person to the committee shortly before the end of the second year of the award, at which time the committee will make a decision regarding continued funding.

Click Here for Further Details
Phi Beta Psi Sorority Funding Opportunity

Phi Beta Psi Sorority is a national, civic, non-profit organization whose National Project is to advance cancer research nationwide to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment by providing research grants to qualified investigators addressing original questions and hypotheses to be explored in basic and clinical studies in the field of cancer.

It is anticipated that 5-6 grants of $40,000-$60,000 annually will be awarded in 2017. Each institution can submit two proposals.

Eligibility
Research applications must be focused on brain, breast, colorectal, endometrial, lung, ovarian, pancreatic or prostate cancer. Preference is given to Young Investigators with documented evidence of potential for conducting novel research or either basic or clinical aspects of cancer and cancer-related problems. Applications from Established Investigators exploring new and innovative areas of cancer research also will be considered. All applicants must be a member of the UACC.

Important Dates
UACC deadline for LOI/Biosketch: Monday, May 9, 2016
Sponsor/Application deadline: Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Application should include:

- Cover page indicating the name, affiliation and contact information of the Principal Investigator and the university or institutional office fiscally responsible for managing research grant funding. Institutional approval must be granted in writing before an application is submitted. Because Phi Beta Psi Charity is a non-profit organization, no overhead costs are allowed.
- Biographical Sketch of the Principal Investigator and other key personnel in NIH 398 format with ongoing research support (not to exceed 4 pages).
- Research Plan (Description of proposed research, sections a-e may not exceed 10 pages total)
  - Background related to the proposal with citations of relevant scientific references
  - Specific Aims of the research investigation(s) (including hypotheses) and the long-term goals with clear indication of the manner in which the investigations will address the goals of the Phi Beta Psi Charity Trust.
Preliminary Results supporting the hypothesis and approach proposed
Scientific Approach and Rationale including Methods and Resources to be employed. If research involves patients or their tissues, Human Subjects Protection must be documented.
Innovation or Clinical Relevance (i.e., application of results to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and biology of cancer).

- Copies of four (4) of the relevant recent research publications of the Principal Investigator.
- Budget (not in an NIH modular format) indicating the amounts requested for a) personal and fringe benefits (salaries of the Principal Investigators may not be included in the budget), b) consumable supplies and c) other expenses with justifications for each category.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please first send me an LOI and a copy of your NIH Biosketch. You will be notified if you are chosen to submit the full application.

LOIs and Biosketches should be emailed to Deb McDonnell, mcdonnell@uacc.arizona.edu

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).

Application Deadline May 6
**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]

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**UAHS Career Development Award**

The University of Arizona Health Sciences (UAHS) Career Development Award (CDA) training program is designed to provide research training and funding opportunities for junior faculty members at the UA to foster academic careers in clinical and translational research. Personalized didactic coursework, mentored research and multidisciplinary interactions and collaborations will be offered to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to build a well-funded collaborative research career for the awardees.

**Application Deadline: June 15, 2016**

The UAHS-CDA scholars will receive **salary support of $75,000 per year for two years** or funds to cover ~75 percent assigned effort of the current total base salary, plus fringe benefits. In addition, **as much as $5,000 per year** will be available to defray costs associated with the scholar's research-related activities, including lab supplies, tuition and fees for enrolling in courses of interest related to his/her research. In addition, the UAHS-CDA will provide **$1,500 per year for the scholar to travel** to one or more academic conferences, and **$5,000 per year to contribute toward the mentor's research program**. The scholars will be selected by a UAHS-CDA Advisory Committee composed of established investigators and physician-scientists with excellent track records and well-funded research programs.

[Click Here for Further Details]
UAHS Bridge Funding Program

The Office of the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences (SVPHS) and Deans of the UAHS Colleges (Medicine in Tucson and Phoenix, Pharmacy, Nursing and Public Health) have developed a program to provide bridge funding to support faculty at UAHS to span the gap in innovative and significant research projects. The UAHS Bridge Funding Program, which is established and administered by the SVPHS office, is intended to bridge funds to minimize disruption of existing research projects that have temporarily lost external funding but show high promise of success in the next round of competitive review.

**Application Deadline July 1, 2016 or December 1, 2016**

The maximal award for Bridge Funding is not to exceed $6,000/month for 12 months ($72,000/year). The funds will be provided to the awardee by the Office of the SVPHS, the Office of the Dean, and the Office of the Chair (of the awardee's home college and department). The support will be provided monthly, for a maximum of one year, and end at the start of any renewed or new funding. The SVPHS/Dean offices anticipate supporting up to five (5) investigators for Bridge Funding each year in 2016 and 2017.

[Click Here for Further Details]

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Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for NCI Youth Enjoy Science (YES) Program (R25)

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

Pilot Funding - American Cancer Society Institutional Review Grant

CANCER RESEARCH FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR NEW INVESTIGATORS

Qualified faculty from the University of Arizona and its affiliates are encouraged to apply for cancer research funds made available through an American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant (ACS-IRG). These funds are intended to provide seed money to new investigators to help them with starting their research programs and to obtain preliminary data in support of more extensive proposals. Only applications that relate to cancer research will be accepted. However, cancer-related research will be interpreted using the broadest definition.

DEADLINE FOR LOI: Monday, Aug. 17, by 5 p.m.
DEADLINE FOR PROPOSAL: Monday, Oct. 5, by 5 p.m.
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.
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.