News from the University of Arizona Cancer Center

Our mission is to prevent and to cure cancer.

Monthly News & Updates - August 2016
UA Cancer Center Retains Status with $17.6M Award

The University of Arizona Cancer Center has been recognized for its multidisciplinary cancer research and research-driven clinical care through a highly competitive grant award from the National Cancer Institute. The NCI has renewed the center's status as a Comprehensive Cancer Center and awarded a five-year, $17.6 million Cancer Center Support Grant, based on the strength, depth and breadth of basic laboratory, clinical, prevention, control and population-based research.

Read More
A new edition of the Act Against Cancer has been published and is now available for distribution. The Act Against Cancer supports the UACC's annual giving efforts.

Research with a global impact is conducted here every day. Annual giving for the center provides opportunities for discovery, promotes knowledge and education and enables our scientists and physicians to expand hope.

Annual gifts support the Act Against Cancer Fund. This unrestricted fund allows the Director of the University of Arizona Cancer Center to support innovative programs throughout the year. With the state providing less than 3 percent of the cancer center's annual budget, your support is more crucial than ever.

Copies are available in the Admin office, room 2942. Please feel free to distribute to family, friends, and community members.

Read the Latest Edition Here
International collaboration to create new cancer models to accelerate research

An international project to develop a large, globally accessible bank of new cancer cell culture models for the research community has been launched. The National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the National Institutes of Health; Cancer Research UK, London; the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Cambridge, England; and the foundation Hubrecht Organoid Technology, Utrecht, Netherlands, are joining forces to develop the Human Cancer Models Initiative (HCMI), which will bring together expertise from around the world to make about 1,000 cancer cell models.

Read Full Article

Exciting News & Need to Know

UA Cancer Center Member Receives 2 NIH Grants of More than $3 Million to Study Arsenic

Donna Zhang, PhD, professor in the UA Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, is the principal investigator on two new R01 grants from the National Institutes of Health that will provide more than $3 million for her research. The first project is "Nrf2, Autophagy and Arsenic Carcinogenesis," which will investigate the detailed mechanism by which arsenic causes lung cancer. In turn, this will allow investigators to identify markers of exposure to identify populations at risk of developing arsenic-induced lung cancer, as well as to develop tailored therapies for the individuals who
already have developed the disease. This project is funded by grant number 1R01 ES0268745, NIH/NIEHS for $1.7 million over five years. The second project is "Arsenic, Nrf2 and Autophagy Dysfunction in Type II Diabetes," which will investigate the molecular mechanisms by which arsenic alters the proteotoxic and oxidative stress responses to determine if these alterations aid the onset and progression of diabetes. This project is funded by grant number 1R01 DK109555, NH/NIDDK for $1.9 million over five years.

Dr. Zhang is a member of the University of Arizona Cancer Center Cancer Prevention and Control unit and of the UA BIO5 Institute.

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**Medical Technology Business with Ties to UAHS Wins Arizona Innovation Challenge**

Tucson-based medical device startup Salutaris Medical Devices Inc. (SalutarisMD®) has been awarded the 2016 Arizona Innovation Challenge (AIC) grant, sponsored by the Arizona Commerce Authority. SalutarisMD®, a medical device company that treats vision loss, was the only Southern Arizona company recognized with the award. The company has developed a novel, minimally invasive instrument and procedure for delivering radiation to the eye to treat wet age-related macular degeneration. This technology was invented by Russell Hamilton, PhD, DABMP, professor of radiation oncology and head of the physics section of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the UA College of Medicine - Tucson, and a member of the University of Arizona Cancer Center. Also, several SalutarisMD scientific advisers have appointments at the UA Cancer Center, the UA College of Medicine - Tucson and its Department of Radiation Oncology and Department of Ophthalmology.

A panel of expert judges evaluates applications and assesses each on a set of criteria, including technology potential, marketing strategy, quality of management team and economic impact. This business plan competition awards capital to talented, innovative start-up and early-stage companies to develop their business.

SalutarisMD plans to use the award to support manufacturing and export distribution. "It is immensely gratifying to see this technology on the cusp of commercialization," said Dr. Hamilton. "This has the potential to be a transformative intervention and I'm looking forward to our continued progress."
Pancreatic Cancer Resists Personalized Medicine - What Researchers Are Doing to Fight Back

The study led by Agnieszka Witkiewicz, MD, and Erik Knudsen, PhD, "Integrated Patient-Derived Models Delineate Individualized Therapeutic Vulnerabilities of Pancreatic Cancer," was published in *Cell Reports*.

A team led by University of Arizona researchers is taking a new, patient-directed approach to treating pancreatic cancer. Rather than relying on conventional cell lines that have defined effective drug targets for other types of cancers, they are creating and sequencing cell lines from a cancer patient's own tissue. Their results, outlined August 4 in *Cell Reports*, reveal that pancreatic tumors are more varied than previously thought and that drug sensitivity is unique to each patient.

[Read the Publication Here](#)

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The University of Arizona Cancer Center Planning & Facilities

The UACC Office of Planning and Facilities is dedicated to monitoring the quality and utilization of existing facilities as well as to developing plans for new facilities that will benefit the needs of the University of Arizona Cancer Center users and meet the research and education mission of the UA Cancer Center. To accomplish this mission, the UACC Office of Planning and Facilities works to provide quality facilities planning, design and reconfiguration resources and the accurate dissemination of assigned space and occupancy information for UACC. The UACC Office of Planning and Facilities is also a resource for anyone who has questions regarding facilities and safety issues at UACC.

[Visit the New Planning and Facilities Site](#)
Dr. Jeff Burgess Receives Fulbright Schuman European Union Award

Jeff Burgess, MD, MPH, associate dean of research and professor at the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, has received a Fulbright Schuman Award to conduct international policy-related research on safety and health programs for fire service and emergency medical services in the United Kingdom and France.

Read Full Article

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

Shared Resources
Shared Resources To Enhance Research Efforts

The University of Arizona Cancer Center supports eight Shared Resources funded by the Cancer Center Support Grant, intended to provide access to technology that enhances the research productivity of the Cancer Center and provides a basis for scientific interaction and consultation, as well as access to services that facilitate the research and strengthen the administrative and organizational cohesion of the center.

Biostatistics
Analytical Chemistry
Behavioral Measurement and Interventions
Bioinformatics
Cancer Imaging
Experimental Mouse
Flow Cytometry
Genomics
Proteomics
Tissue Acquisition and Cellular/Molecular Analysis

Current Funding Opportunities

NCI Funding Opportunities

(R01) Program to Assess the Rigor and Reproducibility of Exosome-Derived Analytes for Cancer Detection (PAR-16-276)
Application due dates: October 13, 2016; June 13, 2017; October 13, 2017; June 13, 2018; October 15, 2018; June 13, 2019

(R21) Program to Assess the Rigor and Reproducibility of Exosome-Derived Analytes for Cancer Detection
(PAR-16-277) Application due dates: October 13, 2016; June 13, 2017; October 13, 2017; June 13, 2018; October 15, 2018; June 13, 2019

(R21) Pilot and Feasibility Studies Evaluating the Role of RNA Modifications in Cancer Biology (PA-16-177)
Application due: September 16, 2016; no LOI

(R25) Cancer Research Education Grants Program to Promote Diversity - Research Experiences (PAR-16-138)
Application due date: September 25, 2016

(R25) Cancer Research Education Grants Program to Promote Diversity - Courses for Skills Development (PAR-16-139)
Application due date: September 25, 2016

(R01) Role of Mobile Genetic Elements in Cancer (PAR-16-227)
LOI September 5, 2016; Application due November 6, 2016

(R21) Methodology and Measurement in the Behavioral and Social Sciences (PAR-16-261)
Application due date: October 16, 2016

(R01) Methodology and Measurement in the Behavioral and Social Sciences (PAR-16-260)
Application due date: October 16, 2016; no LOI

(R21) Mechanisms of Cancer and Treatment-related Symptoms and Toxicities (PA-16-258)
Application due date: October 16, 2016

(U24) Sustained Support for Informatics Resources for Cancer Research and Management (NOT-CA-16-045) (PAR-15-333)
Application due date: November 10, 2016

P30 Admin Supplement Science of Behavior Change: Use-inspired Basic Research to Optimize Behavior Change Interventions and Outcomes (PA-16-334)
Application due date: November 10, 2016
(R43 / R44) Methods Development in Natural Products Chemistry (PA-16-342)
Application due date: (standard): first date September 5, 2016

(U01) Biological Comparison in Patient-Derived Models of Cancer (PAR-16-344)
Application due dates: September 14, 2016; March 1, 2017; September 6, 2017; March 7, 2018; September 6, 2018; March 6, 2019

(U01) Cancer Target Discovery and Development Network (U01) (RFA-CA-16-014)
Application due date: October 3, 2016

(R01) Social Epigenomics Research Focused on Minority Health and Health Disparities (PAR-16-355)
Application due date: November 16, 2016

(R21) Social Epigenomics Research Focused on Minority Health and Health Disparities (PAR-16-356)
Application due date: November 16, 2016

(R01) Fundamental Mechanisms of Affective and Decisional Processes in Cancer Control (PAR-16-380)
Application due date(s): April 11, 2017; October 10, 2017; April 11, 2018; October 10, 2018; April 11, 2019, October 11, 2019

(U24) Oncology Co-Clinical Imaging Research Resources to Encourage Consensus on Quantitative Imaging Methods and Precision Medicine (PAR-16-385)
Application due date(s): November 17, 2016; June 14, 2017; November 17, 2017; June 14, 2018

(R25) NIH Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) Enhancing Diversity in Biomedical Data Science (RFA-MD-16-002)
LOI due date: October 14, 2016
Application due date: November 14, 2016

(K23) NCI Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award to Promote Diversity (PAR-16-399)
No LOI required
Application due date(s): Standard
(K08) NCI Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award to Promote Diversity (PAR-16-400)
No LOI required
Application due date(s): Standard

(K01) NCI Mentored Research Scientist Development Award to Promote Diversity (PAR-16-401)
No LOI required
Application due date(s): Standard

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Core Facility Equipment Enhancement Fund

Core Facility Enhancement grants are available to augment scientific capacity through the acquisition of equipment for use by multiple investigators in university core facilities. Equipment with a total cost of $100,000 to $300,000 can be requested. An additional $30,000 in core facility use credits can be added to stimulate use; core facility use credits may only be used to cover approved user fees in the core facility. Equipment at this scale is expected be located in, and administrated by, an approved core facility and operated by existing professional core facility personnel. Proposals must be endorsed by the core facility faculty user committee and demonstrate the need from multiple committed users from multiple units.

Proposals are accepted once a year, with a deadline of September 1 at 5pm (MST). Review may take approximately one month.

Click Here for Further Information
Pilot Funding - American Cancer Society Institutional Research 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: Aug. 31, by 5 p.m.
DEADLINE FOR PROPOSAL: Monday, Oct. 5, by 5 p.m.

Click Here for More Information
The Role of Mobile Genetic Elements in Cancer (R01)

The overall goal of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) is to encourage applications to investigate mechanisms regulating the expression and activity of mobile genetic elements, including long terminal repeat (LTR) and non-LTR retroelements, in cancer. For example, although long interspersed element-1 (LINE-1 or L1) retroelements are active in many cancers whether somatic L1 insertions lead to cancer cell heterogeneity and/or adaptive phenotypes that confer growth or survival advantages during cancer evolution or response to therapy is not clear. Similarly, how human endogenous viruses (HERVs) affect cancer processes is also not well understood. In an effort to address this knowledge gap, this FOA invites research applications that specifically investigate mechanisms regulating the expression and activity of mobile genetic elements in the context of cell transformation and assess the impact of their activity on tumor heterogeneity, cancer evolution, and response to therapy.

LOI due September 5, 2016
Application: Standard dates apply

View Full 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.

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
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

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
AD of Clinical Research, Chad Adams, is pleased to announce that Liz McPeak has accepted an position as the CTO Administrative Support Manager. In this role, Liz will have administrative oversight over all of the CTO administrative functional roles including the Regulatory Team, the Finance Team, the QA/QC Team, and the Administrative Staff (Stephanie Martinez & Mayra Gomez). Liz will play a key role in enhancing an intra-team collaborative environment including working with Alaina to find even more efficient ways to work the CTO clinical support team.

Liz bring a significant breadth of experience to this role. Liz has an earned MPH degree from the University of Michigan, School of Public Health. Her bachelor's degree was in biology. Liz has held various clinical research positions at the renowned Dana Farber Cancer Institute as well as the University of Michigan. She also has solid experience as a program director and project manager. Since joining the University of Arizona Cancer Center, Liz has held roles as a regulatory coordinator, a committee coordinator, and most recently as the Interim Regulatory Manager. Please join me in congratulating Liz in this new position.
Karlie Passey Steps Into New Role at UA Cancer Center

Beginning Monday, August 1, Karlie Passey will be serving in her new role as the Program Manager, Membership and Staff Affairs Office.

Duties for human resources and membership at the UACC will be combined into The Office of Membership and Staff Affairs, overseen by Karlie.

In this role, Karlie will provide administrative, human resources, and membership support to the UA Cancer Center. She will be coordinating with University Departmental Human Resources Alliance members, the AHS Human Resources Office and other (outside) organizations as needed in order to ensure that personnel and faculty hired for the UACC are of the highest quality in order to support the prevention, research and cure mission of the UACC.

Karlie will also oversee membership affairs and will continue to work with UACC members to maintain accurate and complete data to meet various requirements for CCSG, NCI, NIH, NSF, EAB, etc.

Karlie has a strong background in human resources. Prior to joining the UA in July of 2015, she oversaw HR operations for the entire company portfolio of a large tech corporation in Utah that employed more than 300 people. She also has experience in higher education, having worked in Student Affairs at Brigham Young University - Idaho. She has a B.A. in English from Brigham Young University - Idaho with a minor in Human Resource Management.

Karlie brings a tremendous amount of energy to the team, and she will be pivotal to the success of several new initiatives that are underway, including a new employee on-boarding process. Karlie can be reached at karliepassey@email.arizona.edu.

Please Welcome Our New Team Members!

Anna Christensen - Research Specialist
Amanda Ruiz - Research Technician
Jerry Antone - Research Technician
Rishil Kathawala - Post Doc
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.