News from the University of Arizona Cancer Center

Our mission is to prevent and to cure cancer.

Monthly News & Updates - July 2016
White House Cancer Moonshot Summit Hosted by the University of Arizona Cancer Center

Nearly a hundred people participated in the regional summit hosted June 29 by the University of Arizona Cancer Center as part of the nationwide Cancer Moonshot events sponsored by the White House as part of an initiative to marshal resources to cure cancer.

Read More

Doing More for Arizona: Fighting Cancer

The Cancer Prevention and Control Program was highlighted in a show called Doing More for Arizona, produced by Cox Communications. Cyndi Thomson, PhD, RD, and Sherry Chow, PhD, discuss the work being done at the UACC. The program shares some great stories about cancer survivors here in AZ.

Watch the Program
Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support UA Cancer Center. Come in to the Chipotle at 3055 N. Campbell Ave. #183 in Tucson on Friday, July 8th between 5:00pm and 10:00pm. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to UA Cancer Center.

Chipotle Mexican Grill

Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.
The PEW Charitable Trusts Pew-Stewart Scholars Program for Cancer Research

**Assistant Professors of the Cancer Center:**

The UACC leadership team would like to nominate a candidate from the University of Arizona Cancer Center for a Pew-Stewart Cancer Research Scholars award.

If you are interested and eligible, please put forth your name, CV, a summary of your current research, and a letter of support from your Program Leader or Department/Division Head. We will need these materials no later than noon on July 12, 2016.

Please send them to me or Melanie Hupp at **mhupp@uacc.arizona.edu**.

The award provides $240,000 in flexible support over a four-year period. Candidates must have been in an Assistant Professor appointment for less than three years (not appointed before 7/15/13), whether or not such an appointment was on a tenure track. (Note: Research Assistant Professors are not eligible.)

Please [click here](#) to see the announcement, with associated links, for more information.

It would be our pleasure to nominate an individual from our Cancer Center for this prestigious award.

Thank you.
Bill Montfort Awarded UA Pilot Grant Through Office of Research and Development (ORD) & BIO5

This is an internal UA Pilot grant through the Office of Research and Development (ORD) & BIO5. The grant is for $100K with $70K from the TRIF initiative (Technology Research Initiative Fund, which is supported by Proposition 301 and an Arizona sales tax), and a matching $30K from the College of Science, the College of Medicine and the UA Cancer Center ($10K each).

The title of the project is: Targeting CD47 for Checkpoint Cancer Immunotherapy

The team includes:

William Montfort, PhD (Co-PI). Prof. of Chemistry and Biochemistry; Co-Leader of Therapeutic Development (Cancer Center)

Emmanuel Katsanis, MD (Co-PI). Prof. of Pediatrics, Medicine, Pathology and Immunobiology; Director of Blood and Marrow Transplantation

Janko Nikolich-Zugich, MD, PhD. Bowman Professor and Head, Immunobiology

Michael Kuhns, PhD. Asst. Prof. of Immunobiology.

Baldassarre Stea, MD, PhD. Prof. and Head, Radiation Oncology

Daniel Persky, MD. Assoc. Prof., Medicine; Director, Clinical Trials Office

Faiz Anwer, MD. Asst. Prof., Medicine; Clinical Dir. of the Blood and Marrow Transplant Program; Director, Stem Cell Harvest Program, Hematology/Oncology

The goal of the pilot project is to obtain preliminary data for a larger grant featuring partnership between clinical and basic scientists to stimulate immune clearance of cancer cells. The project is driven by individuals in the Cancer Center Therapeutic Development program.
Running from Tucson to Phoenix to Fight Cancer - UACC Supporter runs 125 miles

Geoff Schmidt began his run at 7 p.m. on a recent Friday, when early monsoon weather lowered the temperature, but raised the humidity.

He made the 125-mile trip in 2 days, running mostly at night using both trails and frontage roads. Schmidt started at the Cancer Center at the University of Arizona, and was greeted by a small group of friends and family at the finish line in the parking lot of the U of A Cancer Center in downtown Phoenix.

Schmidt, 44, took up running four years ago to better his health, lose weight and help kick his two-decade smoking habit. The Tucson-to-Phoenix super marathon was one of his personal goals and a way to raise money for cancer research through private donations and underwriting from local businesses.

Schmidt also said he was looking for a way to combat the helplessness he experienced when his brother-in-law Steve died from brain cancer in 2015. In the end, Schmidt said his run raised more than $2,000 for cancer research, and word of his achievement is still helping to bring in donations.

His next goal? Qualifying to run in the 2017 Boston Marathon.

Listen to the Arizona Public Media Story
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

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) 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

(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

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

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**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 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

New to the UACC Family

Please Welcome Our New Team Members!

Anna Christensen - Research Specialist
Amanda Ruiz - Research Technician
Jerry Antone - Research Technician
Rishil Kathawala - Post Doc
Dr. Benjamin Lee joins UA Department of Surgery and Banner - UMC as Professor and New Chief of Urology

Benjamin Lee, MD, a national leader in kidney and prostate cancer surgery and research, has joined Banner - University Medical Center and the University of Arizona Department of Surgery as professor and chief of the Division of Urology.

He is one of about 20 new faculty physicians joining the hospital and UA College of Medicine - Tucson this summer.

Dr. Lee comes to Tucson from the Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, where he was a professor of medicine and urology and director of the school’s fellowship program in robotics, laparoscopy and endourology.

Dr. Lee has extensive experience with minimally invasive approaches to treat renal cell carcinoma, prostate cancer, transitional cell carcinoma and kidney disease, pioneering several innovative surgical techniques and principles.

"We are thrilled that Dr. Lee has chosen to join us in Arizona. He brings high energy and strong clinical expertise in kidney and prostate cancer," said Leigh Neumayer, MD, head of the UA Department of Surgery and UA Cancer Center member.

In addition to his role as urology division chief, he will serve as director of the Gastroenterology/Urology Cancer and Disease Strategic Planning Team at the University of Arizona Cancer Center and as team lead of urologic imaging with the UA Department of Medical Imaging.

He is the author of more than 250 manuscripts, book chapters and educational videos and leads a number of major NIH clinical trials. His research has been recognized with awards from the American Urological Association, The Endourological Society and Urology medical journal.

Dr. Lee received his medical degree from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1994 and completed his residency at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. Lee then served as an assistant and associate professor and director of the laparoscopy section at the North Shore - Long Island Jewish Medical Center, part of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.
He will see patients at the University of Arizona Cancer Center / North, 3838 N. Campbell Ave. To schedule an appointment, please call 520-694-4032.

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.