

Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center Training Navigator Newsletter

January 2025 UNMC Newsletter Volume 12

Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer
Center National Cancer Institute
(NCI) Training Navigator
Program Administrative
Supplement

Have a question about a
cancer education or career
opportunity at UNMC? Email
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A New Year & New Opportunities!

In speaking with Training Navigator scholars, we have repeatedly heard requests for more information on career advancement and grant writing. This month we provide information about upcoming opportunities in both areas.

On the topic of career advancement, Misty Pocwierz-Gaines will be leading an NIH biosketch writing workshop on **March 5th** in DRC 1 at 12:00-1:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. Please mail Misty (misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu) to register. After the workshop, if you would like additional advice about biosketch preparation, you can contact Misty to schedule a one-on-one session

The Great Plains IDeA-CTR Network is offering **two free virtual** grant writing workshops presented by the AtKisson Training Group (ATG). The first workshop will focus on structuring NIH R Award proposals. This workshop will be held on April 16 (8:00 – 11 a.m.) and April 23 (8:00 – 11:00 a.m.). The topics that will be covered include writing the Specific Aims section, understanding the guidelines for the Significance, Innovation, and Approach sections, knowing the roles of NIH Program Officers, and comprehending the viewpoints of grant application reviewers. The second workshop (April 24, 8:00 – 12:00) will cover how to prepare NIH K Award applications. You can register [here](#).

Keep reading for more opportunities!

Cancer Research Career Exploration

INSIDE CANCER CAREERS

A PODCAST FROM THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

From Lab to Clinic: The Power of Mentorship in Cancer Research



ANDREA APOLO, M.D.

ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF, SENIOR INVESTIGATOR AND HEAD OF THE BLADDER CANCER SECTION GENITOURINARY MALIGNANCIES BRANCH NCI CENTER FOR CANCER RESEARCH 2025 NCI OUTSTANDING MENTOR AWARD RECIPIENT



SAAD ATIQ, M.D.

HEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY FELLOW NCI CENTER FOR CANCER RESEARCH



ANDRE KYDD, M.D.

HEMATOLOGY ONCOLOGY FELLOW NCI CENTER FOR CANCER RESEARCH

AVAILABLE WHEREVER YOU LISTEN!

[Inside Cancer Careers, a Podcast from the National Cancer Institute](#), explores the exciting world of cancer research, inspiring the next generation of cancer researchers through personal stories from professionals in the cancer field.

Check out the latest episode:

["From Lab to Clinic: The Power of Mentorship in Cancer Research"](#)

In the episode, the significance of mentorship in cancer research is discussed with one of the 2025 NCI Outstanding Mentor Awardees, Dr. Andrea Apolo, and two of her fellows, Dr. Saad Atiq and Dr. Andre Kydd. They explore the evolution of mentoring styles, the importance of communication within teams, and the innovative research being conducted at the NCI, particularly in bladder cancer and immunotherapy. The conversation also delves into the career paths of the guests, highlighting their motivations and experiences in the field of oncology. In this engaging conversation, the speakers share their personal journeys into the field of medicine, mainly focusing on bladder cancer research. They discuss the importance of mentorship, the challenges faced in clinical research, the human element of patient care, and more.

F31 Diversity Predoctoral Fellowship PA-23-271

Objective: To promote biomedical workforce diversity by supporting mentored research training leading to a PhD or combined dual doctoral degrees

Benefits:

- Mentored research training
- Present and publish research findings as first author
- Strengthen grant skill sets
- Enhance competitiveness for NIH funding
- Serve as Principal Investigator of the F31 as a student

Support:

- Provided for up to 5 years (PhD) or 6 years (combined degrees, ex MD/PhD)
- Stipend toward living expenses during research and clinical training
- Contribution toward fees
- Institutional allowance to assist with cost of fellowship expenses

Application Deadlines	Earliest Start Dates
April 8, 2025	December 2025
August 8, 2025	April 2026

Learn More:

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-23-271.html>



Contact: Dr. Sangeeta Ghosh

sangeeta.ghosh@nih.gov



cancer.gov/cche



@NCI Center for Cancer Health Equity



@NCICCHE

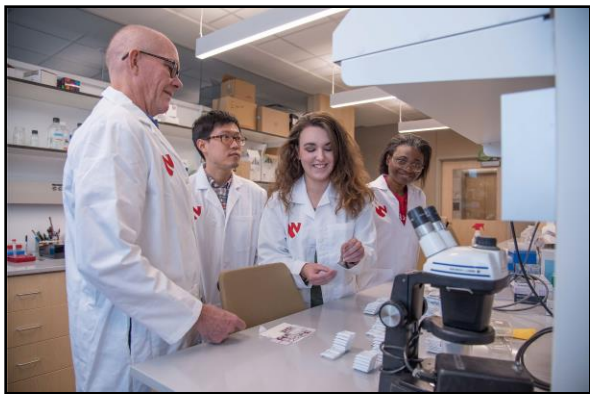
Van Andel Institute Postdoc Preview

The Van Andel Institute (VAI) in Grand Rapids, MI will offer a fully funded [Postdoc Preview](#) event May 1–3, 2025. This *Postdoc Preview* will help prospective postdocs determine if VAI will be a good fit for them. **The deadline to apply is Feb. 24**, and the application is simple (CV and personal information only).

- VAI will provide transportation, lodging and meals for selected applicants. We also are pleased to offer family care grants for those caring for children or other family members.
- To be eligible to apply, applicants must be current graduate students at U.S. institutions who anticipate beginning a postdoc within the next year.
- Individuals who identify as members of underrepresented racial and ethnic groups are strongly encouraged to apply.

Please contact Dr. Erica Gobrogge, at opa@vai.org with questions

UNMC Graduate Studies Fellowships



The Graduate Studies Office has 1-year fellowships available for students. Only full-time PhD students at UNMC who have submitted a Letter of Intent, Project Funding Affirmation, and Abstract on or before **February 1st** are eligible to apply. The applicant's permanent major advisor and supervisory committee must have been approved in Seguidor prior to the **March 1st** application deadline. The format of the Graduate Studies

Fellowship is modeled after the NIH F30/31 application. Students are required to submit a Research Plan that consists of the following documents: Specific Aims (1-page limit), Research Strategy (6-page limit), Literature Cited (no page limit), Respective Contributions (1-page limit), Applications for Concurrent Support (1-page limit), Goals for Fellowship Training and Career (1-page limit), Activities Planned Under this Award (1-page limit), and Responsible Conduct of Research (1-page limit). A list of full eligibility requirements and can be found on the UNMC Graduate Studies website:

<https://www.unmc.edu/gradstudies/admissions/costs-funding/assistantships-fellowships.html>.

All applicants will receive written feedback on their applications. Many students choose to use the application as the basis for NIH F30/F31 grant proposals, and the written reviews are useful for students who want to strengthen their NIH F30/F31 applications.

Damon Runyon Fellowship

The Damon Runyon Fellowship Award supports the training of the brightest postdoctoral scientists as they embark upon their research careers. This funding enables them to be mentored by established investigators in leading research laboratories across the country. The Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation is a leading nonprofit organization that funds brave and bold cancer researchers.

Damon Runyon's mission is to identify and support the best early career scientists pursuing innovative research that has the potential to transform cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Applicants must have completed one or more of the following degrees or its equivalent: MD, PhD, MD/PhD, DDS, DVM, DO. Visit the

[Damon Runyon website](#) for more information. Application deadline: **March 17th**

MOFFITT CANCER CENTER

THE ONLY NCI-DESIGNATED COMPREHENSIVE
CANCER CENTER BASED IN FLORIDA

INNOVATORS OF TOMORROW SYMPOSIUM

PRESENT YOUR RESEARCH AND
LEARN ABOUT BECOMING A
postdoctoral fellow!



Apply for the opportunity to present your research, meet our faculty and learn about our postdoctoral training programs in Cancer Biology & Evolution, Health Outcomes & Behavior, Cancer Epidemiology, Molecular Medicine, and Immuno-Oncology.

**Apply by February 7th to be considered
for the April 3-4, 2025 Symposium!**

Who is eligible:

Doctoral
students within
two years of
graduating

Doctoral
graduates
within one year
of graduation

What's included:

- Roundtrip domestic flight to Tampa International Airport
- Two-night stay in a private hotel room
- Meals

Learn more and apply:

Moffitt.org/MIOT

Tampa Bay -
A great place
to live, work,
and play!



2025 CANCER SUMMIT

Cancer Prevention & Early Detection: From Top to Bottom



19 March 2025

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM (CST)

In-person and virtual option

In-person registration closes 2/26/25

6.0 nursing CE credits pending

6.0 CHES/MCHES CE credits pending



www.necancer.org/2025Summit

NATIONAL SPEAKERS

Priya Thomas, MD

MD Anderson Cancer Center

Breast Cancer Screening and Preventive Therapy in High-Risk Populations



Katharine Head, PhD

Indiana University Indianapolis

HPV Vaccine Confidence and Hesitancy: Looking Back and Looking Ahead



LOCAL SPEAKERS

- **Prostate Cancer PSA Screening - Finding Clarity in Confusion**
Antonio Beltran, MD & Adam Mues, MD - Urology Partners of Nebraska
- **Empowering Health and Wellbeing: The Role of Nutrition and Lifestyle in Cancer Prevention**
Jean Ann Fischer, MS, RDN & Beth Nacke, MS, RD - UNL/Nebraska Extension
- **Lung Cancer: Where We Are and Where We Are Going**
Rudy Lackner, MD, FACS, FCCP - University of Nebraska Medical Center
- **Cancer Prevention & Early Detection: A Patient Perspective**

Sponsorship & Exhibit Table Registration Information

www.necancer.org/2025Summit



Nebraska Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting

THE NEBRASKA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, INC.

(Founded January 30, 1880)

135th ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD

at

University of Nebraska - Lincoln, East Campus Union

FRIDAY, APRIL 25th, 2025

"Call for Papers"

ABSTRACT Submission ONLINE due to NAS BY:

February 28th, 2025

Students, Citizen Scientists, and Professionals are invited to submit an abstract of original research or synthesis of research/literature to one of the Sections for inclusion in the published Program of the Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences.

Presentations will be in hybrid format: ***In Person*** and via ***Remote Zoom*** link

Former Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) students and current graduate students are invited to present and attend the annual Nebraska Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting held in Lincoln, NE this coming April. Most presentations at this conference have typically been given by college undergraduates, but the Nebraska Academy of Sciences is encouraging graduate students to present as well.

The abstract deadline is February 28, 2025. Most presentations are oral (10-15 minutes long) but posters are also accepted. Hybrid format, but principally in-person.

Abstracts can be submitted here:

<https://www.viethconsulting.com/members/proposals/propselect.php?orgcode=NEAS>

There is a small registration fee for the meeting that also covers lunch.



Inaugural Midwest Research Skills Development Workshop
Save the Date: May 9-11, 2025
Big Cedar Lodge, Ridgedale, MO

Trainees and Early Career Faculty

Are you interested in growing your academic research skills?

Beyond clinical training, successful investigators need a broad array of research and career development skills. To address this gap, and building on an international series with over 600 past participants now in its 22nd year, we offer the inaugural workshop in the Midwest.

Topics include:

- Mentoring
- Grantsmanship
- Time Management
- Work-Life Balance (including sessions for partners and children)
- Negotiation

Panels feature successful early and advanced faculty on career development, and breakout sessions offer the opportunity to dive in depth into actual K awards and Phase 1 and 2 protocols.

Cost: \$1,500 for faculty, \$750 for trainees. Includes 1 room for 2 nights, all meals for participant and meeting materials. Travel expenses are not provided. Partners and children welcome, select meals included.

Agenda and Registration: Coming in January 2025

Deadline: April 8, 2025

FREE Online Bioinformatics Course

The Introduction to Bioinformatics online course is a self-paced, introductory course covering key topics in the field of bioinformatics. This course is specifically designed for an audience with no programming background but those who have an aptitude for learning bioinformatics. This course is sponsored by Nebraska INBRE and the Center for Biomedical Informatics Research and Innovation (CBIRI). Participants from nonprofit organizations in Nebraska are eligible to enroll at no cost.

Introduction to Bioinformatics – Seven Module Schedule

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) Introduction to the Field of Bioinformatics | 5) NGS Data Analysis: An Overview |
| 2) Online Bioinformatics Resource and Tools | 6) Functional Characterization of Genes and Gene Products |
| 3) Advanced BLAST Searching | 7) Using R and Bioconductor for Data Analysis |
| 4) Multi-omics Technologies | |

To get started, please complete the registration approval form using your official institutional email.

Registration Approval Form: <https://forms.gle/yRDwYPpiWmNgyvWt7>

For any questions contact Avinash Veerappa, PhD: aveerappa@unmc.edu

Upper Midwest Emerging Scholars Exchange Program

The Upper Midwest Emerging Scholars Exchange is a new, collaborative effort to support the career development of early career faculty in the region. The goal is to create opportunities for faculty to receive invitations to speak at peer Midwest cancer centers. Not only will faculty have a chance to hone their oral presentation skills and bolster their CVs in preparation for promotion, but they will also have an opportunity to develop relationships with potential research collaborators, mentors, and sponsors. Visit <https://www.unmc.edu/cancercenter/education/faculty-scholar-exchange.html> for eligibility requirements. **Applications are due January 31.**

Contact Misty Pocwierz-Gaines, misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu with any questions.

Scholar Spotlight: Amanda Macke



Amanda Macke is a fifth-year PhD Candidate in the lab of Dr. Armen Petrosyan in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Prior to becoming a PhD student, Amanda was an undergraduate at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Amanda will be completing her PhD degree later in the Spring 2025 semester. Her research focuses on the disorganization of the Golgi apparatus in disease. Using the model of alcohol-induced liver injury, she found that the Golgi becomes fragmented due to autophagy of Golgi membranes, in addition to the known loss of Golgi matrix protein integrity. In advanced prostate cancer, she showed Golgi fragmentation leads to alternative glycosylation of integrins, resulting in a more aggressive and metastatic cancer cell phenotype.

Amanda has found the Training Navigator Program to be very helpful in forming connections and setting herself up for success to find a postdoc position. With support from a Training Navigator conference attendance scholarship, she was able to make many connections with faculty, postdocs, and students in other labs in the fields she is most interested in, which include cellular biology and alcohol research. She appreciated receiving support from Misty and Dr. Solheim while filling out applications and preparing for interviews.

Amanda has broad interests for future research and postdoctoral positions but began her search by looking at basic cellular biology opportunities to further utilize advanced microscopy techniques. Amanda has applied to a few postdoc programs and networking symposia, including the NCI iCURE Program and the St. Jude National Graduate Student Symposium. She found the processes to be great practice in putting together applications. Amanda made successful connections at the Cell Biology Conference and stayed in touch with faculty about research and mentoring relationships. She has begun to focus her efforts on lab and postdoc job listings, and she has also reached out to some labs that have not posted advertisements (since labs that are not actively advertising also sometimes have openings for postdocs). From her search, she has completed a couple of interviews and received many favorable replies indicating potential interest in offering her a position.

Five years from now, Amanda can picture herself beginning a professor role and establishing an independent research group. She plans to obtain her own funding during her postdoctoral fellowship, which would allow her to start with a strong research focus and positive funding record. We are excited to see what the future holds for Amanda and wish her well during her career exploration journey.

Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center



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Tips and Tricks for F Grants

If you were not able to attend Dr. Jenny Black's presentation on the upcoming changes to the F awards on January 14 and are interested in viewing the recording, please email Pallace Messer at pmesser@unmc.edu.

Important Dates

February 4	Impostor Syndrome Workshop
February 7	Moffitt Cancer Center Symposium App Due
February 24	Van Andel Postdoc Preview Application Due
February 26	Registration for In-Person Attendance at Nebraska Cancer Coalition Summit Due
February 28	Nebraska Academy of Sciences App Due
March 1	UNMC Assistantship/Fellowship Application Due
March 5	NIH CV Writing/Biosketch Workshop
March 17	Damon Runyon Fellowship Award App Due
March 19	Nebraska Cancer Coalition Cancer Summit (In-Person or Virtual)
March 20 - 21	Duke Cancer Institute Research Scholar Symposium Takes Place
April 3 - 4	Moffitt Cancer Center Innovators of Tomorrow Symposium
April 8	F30 / F31 Application Deadline

