

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.

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 and information on ways we are supporting individuals at all career stages.

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

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.

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.

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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We want to hear from you

We have heard feedback from our internal scholars, and we are interested in hearing back from you, our external partners, to learn how we can better support you in 2025 and beyond. Please email Misty Pocwierz-Gaines at misty.Pocwierz@unmc.edu or Pallace Messer at pmesser@unmc.edu with any ideas you would like to share.

Important Dates

February 4	Impostor Syndrome Workshop
February 7	Moffitt Cancer Center Symposium App 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

