

# Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center Training Navigator Newsletter

## July 2024 Outreach Newsletter Volume 4

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 Misty Pocwierz-Gaines  
at [misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu](mailto:misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu)



Misty Pocwierz-Gaines, MA,  
Lead Training Navigator,  
UNMC



Erin Higgins  
Assistant Training Navigator

## 2024-2025 Funding Application

Thank you all very much for your support and feedback! We have applied for an additional year of funding for the Training Navigator Program. We would not have been able to have this program without the support of our community partners. We welcome any ideas that you have for ways that we can better support you and your students. Please reach out to us with any and all ideas that you have.



## 2024-2025 Campus Visits

Misty is currently scheduling her campus visits for the upcoming year. Please email her at [misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu](mailto:misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu) if you are interested in her or another FPBCC member speaking with your students.

## Scholar Spotlight: Mark Primeaux



This month, we're highlighting Mark Primeaux, an FPBCC Training Navigator Scholar with the UNMC Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Department. Mark is a doctoral student in Dr. Punita Dhawan's lab and works closely with Dr. Jenny Black. Mark says that he studies "the role of Claudins in colon cancer progression and therapy resistance.

[He is] especially interested in how these structural proteins can influence cell signaling pathways when they are dysregulated in cancer."

As a Training Navigator scholar, Mark has found "the newsletter and email updates about career development opportunities and workshops...very helpful." Mark goes on to explain that because of the Training Navigator program, he "was also able to attend the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) national meeting this year, where [he] met with a potential postdoctoral advisor. This led directly to an invitation to visit the lab and interview at Fred Hutch in Seattle, WA." Mark expects to be on the path to becoming an independent cancer researcher in the next five years after he completes his postdoctoral training.

Mark is awaiting the finalization of funding for an F99/K00 grant. We asked his advice for anyone considering applying for an F-grant. He says that you should "carefully read the funding announcement and application instructions" and "find at least one or two successful example applications to serve as models for formatting and appropriate scope. Also, several sections are pretty standard, so you don't need to [reinvent] the wheel." He also suggests having "several people read and give comments on your drafts. Take an honest inventory of your strengths and reframe any gaps in your experience as opportunities for growth that you will address in your goals and training plan." Mark says this is "not a time to be modest, and that "the science needs to be strong, but a thoughtful, rational training plan is absolutely essential."

We're excited to see Mark advance in his career and so proud to have him in this program.

# NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship



Sharing fellowships, grants, and other educational and funding opportunities is one of the priorities of the Training Navigator Program. One fantastic fellowship we're happy to promote is the NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program (CPFP). This program is meant for those who have or nearly have completed their MD, PhD, or other graduate degree, and it provides its fellows an opportunity to develop an independent research program in cancer prevention. The centerpiece of the program is mentored, multidisciplinary research. Senior scientists and program staff will support fellows in developing original scientific projects and reporting findings at meetings and in leading journals.

This program also allows fellows to:

- Increase performance through fellowship coaching and training
- Join a cohort of diverse postdoc collaborators
- If eligible, earn a Master of Public Health (MPH) sponsored by the NCI
- Receive a competitive stipend with relocation, health insurance, & travel benefits

For more information about this fellowship, follow this link: <https://cpfp.cancer.gov/>

Interested in learning more about the Training Navigator Program and what UNMC can offer to those interested in an education and career in cancer research, including the area of cancer prevention research? Reach out to Misty at [misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu](mailto:misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu).



# Bioinformatics Bootcamp

UNMC's Department of Genetics, Cell Biology, and Anatomy is hosting a bootcamp on Bioinformatics where current and incoming students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and others can learn get a crash course on the field of Bioinformatics.

August 14<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am – 4 pm

Registration Deadline August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Cost: \$20 Fee (Waived for incoming students to the Bioinformatics & Systems Biology Program and the Molecular Genetics & Cell Biology Program)

This bootcamp will provide a jumpstart in learning the principles of bioinformatics for analyzing RNA-sequencing data. Objectives include:

- Finding data within repositories
- Preprocessing with Galaxy
- Customizing genome browsers
- Differential expression analysis
- Data visualization in R
- And more!

This in person event will take place at UNMC's Michael Sorrell Center, room 1010 from 9:30 am – 4:00 pm on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

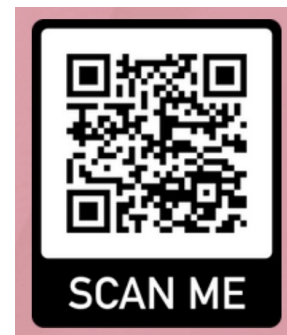
**Registration is due August 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

You can use the QR code or link to register:

<https://forms.office.com/r/M4QhEPF6rA>

**No experience is needed to participate.**  
**There is a \$20 fee which includes lunch.**  
**Bring a laptop if you'll be attending.**

Questions? Reach out to Dr. Jordan Rowley, director of the BISB PhD Program at: [Jordan.Rowley@unmc.edu](mailto:Jordan.Rowley@unmc.edu) or to Crystal Miller at [ccmiller@unmc.edu](mailto:ccmiller@unmc.edu).



**Fred and Pamela Buffett  
Cancer Center**



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**The UNMC Training  
Navigator Program is  
funded by NCI Cancer  
Center Support Grant  
Supplement P30  
CA036727-37S4**

# Touring the UNMC Campus and the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center



With fall and the start of a new school year right around the corner, keep us in mind for student groups who want to learn more about University of Nebraska Medical Center, The Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, and how a student could start an education and career in cancer research here. If you're interested in learning more and/or scheduling a tour of campus, please reach out to Misty at [misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu](mailto:misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu)

