

Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center Training Navigator Newsletter

August 2024 Newsletter Volume 7

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



Misty Pocwierz-Gaines, MA,
Lead Training Navigator,
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Erin Higgins
Assistant Training Navigator

Happy 2024-2025 Academic Year!

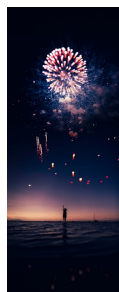
The academic year is off and running! This means that the Cancer Center Seminars have all begun again. If you are not receiving email invitations to them, contact Misty (misty.Pocwierz@unmc.edu) to be added to the appropriate lists.

Congratulations!



Alex Eiken started a postdoctoral position in Drs. Tim Triche Jr. and Derek Janssens' lab at Van Andel Institute in Grand Rapids, MI, in the Epigenetics Dept.

Mark Primeaux received the funding for an NCI F99 Award.



Several Training Navigator Scholars are now appointed to T32 Training Grants, including some newly appointed this summer.

NCI Center for Cancer Health Equity Funding for Faculty Grants

The NCI Center for Cancer Health Equity (CCHE) supports the following basic and translational research funding opportunities to increase scientific understanding of cancer as well as reduce cancer health disparities.

- ❖ Exploratory/Developmental Grants Program for Basic Cancer Research in Cancer Health Disparities (**R01** Clinical Trial Not Allowed) – NCI Contact: Dr. Tiffany Wallace 240-276-5114
- ❖ Exploratory/Developmental Grants Program for Basic Cancer Research in Cancer Health Disparities (**R21** Clinical Trial Not Allowed) – NCI Contact: Dr. Tiffany Wallace 240-276-5114
- ❖ Basic Research in Cancer Health Disparities (**R03** Clinical Trial Not Allowed) – NCI Contact: Dr. Tiffany Wallace 240-276-5114
- ❖ Exploratory Grant Award to Promote Workforce Diversity in Basic Cancer Research (**R21**) – NCI Contacts: Dr. Laritza Rodriguez 240-276-5969 and Dr. Sangeeta Ghosh 240-276-5065

For more information, see <https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/cche/disparities-research/basic-research>



NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

NCI iCURE Opportunities for Graduate Students & Postdoctoral Fellows



AT A GLANCE

Submission Period

Fall 2024

Expectation

Conduct research at the National Cancer Institute

Eligibility

Postbaccalaureate (including post-master's) individuals, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows

Diversity

iCURE encourages applications from individuals from diverse backgrounds.

WHAT IS THE ICURE PROGRAM?

iCURE recruits cohorts of students and scientists from diverse backgrounds into the multidisciplinary environment of NCI and supports their mentored research experiences.

iCURE aims to enhance the diversity of the NCI intramural research workforce and is particularly interested in encouraging applications from individuals who are from diverse backgrounds, including those who are from groups underrepresented in the cancer research workforce, for example those from the groups noted in the Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity ([NOT-OD-20-031](#)).

iCURE is an extension of the NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities' (CRCHD's) highly successful extramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) training program. CURE supports the career progress of its scholars toward research independence and fosters diversity in the biomedical research pipeline.

WHAT DOES ICURE OFFER?

The iCURE program provides:

- » **Two-year awards** for postbaccalaureate (including post-master's) individuals
- » **Two-year awards** for graduate students
- » **Three-year awards** for postdoctoral fellows

iCURE scholars will also enjoy professional and career support, such as:

- » Opportunities to work closely with world-class researchers at NCI
- » Support from NCI program staff as well as resources on intramural and extramural funding opportunities
- » Professional and career development activities
- » Connections to an extensive mentoring network



WHERE DO I LEARN MORE?

For more information about iCURE, eligibility, and how to apply, please visit

<https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/diversity-training/icure>



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Training Navigator Scholar Spotlight



Valerie (Val) Fousek-Schuller is an Immunology, Pathology & Infectious Disease Program PhD student and Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center Training Navigator Scholar whose work is centered on replication protein A (RPA), which is the most abundant single-stranded DNA-binding protein in eukaryotes. Valerie shares that “RPA is very important to complete homologous recombination (HR), also known as DNA repair, especially in cells that are BRCA deficient.” It is known that “RPA completes a single-stranded DNA (ssDNA) handoff when hyperphosphorylated, but there is little research to structurally or biophysically understand phosphorylation of RPA.” Valerie’s research focuses on the usage of phosphomimetic mutants of RPA to determine where ssDNA interacts with various domains of RPA, how RPA interacts with RAD52, which is another protein involved in HR, and determining secondary structure of RPA and the mutants.”

In her time doing this research, Valerie has found the Training Navigator program to be especially helpful in finding and funding workshops that have aided her in her data analysis and presentation skills including a bioinformatics workshop. She told us that these “really opened her eyes to help understand different methods to analyze and present her data.” Valerie is currently keeping her career options open, but she thinks her next steps likely involve a postdoctoral position and starting a company doing research or project management. In the end, Valerie’s goal is to become a scientific editor for a journal. We’re glad to see Valerie use her talents, knowledge, and interests to move forward into a career that’s great for her.

Training Navigator Scholar Spotlight



We're also highlighting Dylan Jochum, a PhD student and a Training Navigator Scholar in the laboratory of Dr. Javeed Iqbal in the Dept. of Pathology, Microbiology, & Immunology. His research strives to discover the mechanistic landscape of lymphomagenesis for a specific subtype of peripheral T-cell lymphoma known as PTCL-GATA3. He uses a variety of genomic and transcriptomic profiling in concert with murine and in vitro models. This multi-pronged approach is enabling Dylan to uncover pathways and interactions that

contribute to the development and progression of PTCL-GATA3 with hope for potential therapeutic targets.

Dylan shared that the Training Navigator program has benefited his current research in that it allowed him to attend key conferences related to his area of interest, which has exposed him to the clinical and research areas of lymphoma. The Training Navigator program has also allowed him to strengthen his presentation and networking abilities with different audiences, enabling him to expand his network within the cancer research community. Dylan stated that these experiences have opened new career possibilities and given him a well-rounded perspective that will be invaluable in the future. As he moves forward, Dylan sees himself continuing to contribute to cancer research either in an academic setting or within industry. He is committed to the advancement of our understanding of cancer and contributing to the development of new therapies that could make a real difference. We anticipate that Dylan will be very successful in achieving his goals as he progresses in his career.

Get Published: Do What You Do and Get Published, Too



**Thursday, September 12
12:00-1:00PM**

Live from MSC 4053

Writing won't happen on its own. It requires innovation, creativity, and time. Things you never seem to have enough of.

This session will demystify the "no time" myth and illuminate the tools you need to GET STARTED. From negotiating for authorships, developing research questions, and revealing the little-known hacks to get your writing off the back-burner, these 60 minutes will be a game-changer for your writing productivity. Register at:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QImihGS0w0G6O7T6ZmW8BZrNfII7rwFGq79LCT9jxjhUNEc1OTRFUFBUWDIISVZONUVMUTBIMjdVSyQIQCN0PWcu>

NCI Early Investigator Advancement Program

The Early Investigator Advancement Program (EIAP) aims to assist cancer researchers and clinician scientists to attain an R01 or equivalent funding. The EIAP strives to bolster expertise and offer guidance for the creation of a competitive grant application. The program also provides access to mentoring and peer networks and fosters a community of new investigators from diverse backgrounds. For more information, see <https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/cche/diversity-training/eiap> and contact EIAP Program staff members Dr. JoBeth McCarthy, Dr. Dan Eckstein, and Dr. Maria Jamela Revilleza at EIAP@nih.gov.

NIH Standard Deadlines

**Fred and Pamela Buffett
Cancer Center**



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With the start of the year also brings a renewed interest in NIH deadlines. The standard deadlines for R01, R03, R21 and F series fellowships grants are shown below. More information can be found at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/due-dates-and-submission-policies/due-dates.htm>.

Grant Type	NIH Deadlines	SPA Inter Notification Request	SPA Internal Deadlines
F30, F31	April 8 August 8 December 8	March 25 July 31 November 24	April 5 August 5 October 5
R01	March 5 July 5 November 5	February 20 June 21 October 22	March 2 June 5 November 2
R03, R21	March 16 July 16 November 16	March 2 June 2 November 2	March 13 June 13 November 13

For more detailed information on internal deadlines and regulations regarding grants, visit UNMC’s Sponsored Program’s website. <https://www.unmc.edu/spa/grants/index.html>

