

# Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center Training Navigator Newsletter

## June 2024 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)



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## NCI Diversity Supplement Award



Dr. Katelyn O'Neill, a University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Research Instructor and Training Navigator Scholar, has recently been awarded a National Cancer Institute (NCI) Diversity Supplement. The Diversity Supplement builds on Dr. Ray Bergan's NCI grant, which focuses on cell signaling pathways inside of the cell responsible for regulating cell motility. Her work will examine factors outside of the cell that are regulating cell motility as well as the impact of cellular stress.

This research will contribute to the overall theme of the parent grant by expanding on its scope and extending the understanding of how cancer cell motility is regulated. This award will allow her to learn new techniques and generate data that will advance the fields of cell motility, metastasis, and drug discovery. It will also allow her to lead peer-reviewed publications, submit NCI R01-level applications, acquire funding, and become an independent investigator leading a research group. Dr. O'Neill said that she "...will pursue these goals from the vantage point of a researcher who comes from a diverse background and as such will use that unique perspective to creatively approach and overcome longstanding barriers and to advance the field."

# What Does the National Cancer Institute Do?



## National Institutes of Health F Grants Graduate Student Panel Discussion

Several of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including the National Cancer Institute, provide funding for graduate students by F grants. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, graduate students Amanda Macke, Kyle McAndrews, Mark Primeaux, Aaron Schwab, Rebecca Slotkowski served as panelists for an NIH F grant writing discussion at UNMC. They spent an hour answering questions from thirty-two cancer research students on the topic of preparing an F Grant. The panelists were selected because they have recently submitted an NIH F30, F31 or F99 grant proposal that scored within the fundable range. The panelists advised students on the importance of starting the writing process early, having a well written training plan, and directly addressing critiques from reviewers when writing a resubmission proposal. The audience members reported that this event was very helpful to them in their preparations for submitting an F award. We appreciate our panelists sharing their knowledge and experiences, and we are grateful to the attendees for their well-thought-out questions.

# Scholar Spotlight: Mary Von Seggern



This month we are happy to shine a spotlight on Mary J. Von Seggern, a FPBCC Training Navigator Scholar with the UNMC College of Public Health. Mary is a doctoral student in the Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Research Program working under the mentorship of [David A. Dzewaltowski, PhD, and team.](#)

Mary describes her current research as being “focused on studying local physical activity systems within rural Midwest communities with shifting boundaries (e.g., where manufacturing and service industries overshadow agricultural farming and ethnoracial diversity is increasing) to facilitate community members through a quality improvement process to design more equitable local physical activity systems (including the youth sport system and rules of the game nested within).” She is ultimately committed to “reducing health inequities to improve population health outcomes across the lifespan.”



Mary was a recent FPBCC Training Navigator conference scholarship recipient and shared with us how grateful she was for this support, as it was one of the most beneficial parts of her experience with the Training Navigator program to date. Specifically, she mentioned it allowed her to meet and learn from others in her field, while further developing her presentation and facilitation skills. Mary also shared that being a Training Navigator Scholar has been a fascinating experience because she has been able to learn more about bench research; plus, it has given her a greater appreciation of the diversity of research that is needed to advance cancer research. We are proud to have Mary in this program, and we are grateful that she made time to answer our questions.

# Community Outreach Opportunity



Students in the UNMC College of Public Health have recently been receiving dynamic training through the Fred & Pamela Buffett Office of Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) on how to work with community members at various outreach events across Omaha and beyond. This training equips students to educate the public on vital topics such as cancer screening guidelines, cancer prevention strategies, and barriers to accessing genetic testing for cancer risk assessment. COE now aims to extend

this exciting opportunity for training and community engagement to UNMC students beyond the College of Public Health, fostering a collaborative effort to promote cancer awareness and prevention. If you're interested in learning more or signing up for this training, please contact Rachael Schmidt at [raschmidt@nebraskamed.com](mailto:raschmidt@nebraskamed.com).

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## NIH Webinar on Revisions to the NIH Fellowship Application & Review Process

The NIH fellowship application and review criteria are undergoing changes that will take effect for due dates on or after January 25, 2025. These involve restructuring the review criteria used to arrive at an overall impact score, as well as some modifications to sections of the Public Health Service (PHS) Fellowship Supplemental Form, candidate biosketch, and referee letter instructions.

Wondering about the implications for your application? Consider participating in a live, virtual event where NIH experts will provide essential insights and updates on these changes, concluding with a live Q&A session. The event on Thursday September 19, 2024, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm CST.



Registration is required. Interested individuals can register using the QR code to the left or by following the link below:

[https://nih.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_3tHiBXpXSR-v12ZsY1hf9g](https://nih.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_3tHiBXpXSR-v12ZsY1hf9g).

More information can be found using the QR code to the right or by following the link below:



<https://grants.nih.gov/learning-center/fellowship-application-review-process-revisions-webinar>

# Upcoming UNMC IDeA-CTR Events



Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

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## From Big Data to Better Insights: A Primer On Using Machine Learning Methods In A Data-Centric World

The Nebraska Chapter of the American Statistical Association will welcome Dr. Trent D. Buskirk of Old Dominion University. This will be a full day, in-person only course hosted on the University of Nebraska at Omaha campus on August 9<sup>th</sup>. For further information on this event please email [gpctr@unmc.edu](mailto:gpctr@unmc.edu).

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting: AI in Clinical Research

The meeting will be held October 21-22, 2024, at the Scott Conference Center on the UNO campus (6450 Pine Street, Omaha). Participants will dive into the cutting-edge world of Artificial Intelligence and its revolutionary impact on clinical trials. This symposium will bring together leading experts, researchers, and students to explore the latest advancements, challenges, and opportunities in the field. Stay tuned for more details on the agenda and how to register. This is an event you won't want to miss!

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