

# Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center Training Navigator Newsletter

April 2024 Newsletter

Volume 3

Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center  
NCI Training Navigator Administrative  
Supplement

Have a question about a  
funding opportunity? Email  
Misty Pocwierz-Gaines at  
misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu



Misty Pocwierz-Gaines, MA  
Lead Training Navigator



Erin Higgins  
Assistant Training Navigator

## Student Impact Award



Buffett Cancer Center Training Navigator Trainee, Alaina Larson, won the 2024 University of Nebraska Medical Center Student Impact Award. This award is given to one student from each UNMC college who embodies leadership qualities and provides a positive influence to the education and overall experience of UNMC students. Alaina was nominated for this award by her peers, members of the faculty, and staff. We could not think of a better recipient for this award.

# Training Navigator Program Updates

April has been a month of great successes for the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center Training Navigator trainees. Several trainees that have successfully defended their dissertations and will be graduating in May. One of these trainees will be starting medical school with the intention of entering a Radiation Oncology residency afterward now that she's finishing her PhD. One trainee is actively interviewing for postdoctoral positions at major cancer research institutions through the US. Another is engaging in new research projects at UNMC as a postdoctoral scientist.

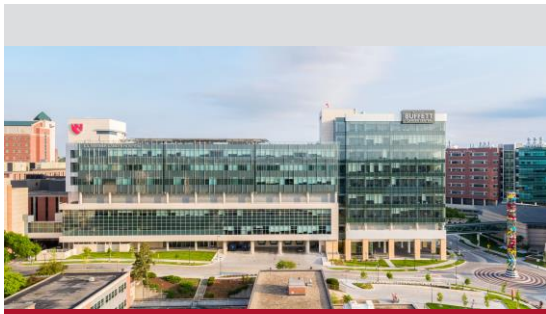
Three Training Navigator trainees attended the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) meeting in San Diego. While they were there, they had the opportunity to network with researchers in their fields of study as well as meet with program officials from the NCI about future funding opportunities.

An undergraduate trainee has been accepted into a summer research position and is very excited about this new opportunity.

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## Are you looking for Fall Seminar Series Speakers?

Does your department have a fall seminar series? Are you looking for speakers to give scientific or recruitment seminars? If so, please email Misty Pocwierz-Gaines at [misty.Pocwierz@unmc.edu](mailto:misty.Pocwierz@unmc.edu) or Erin Higgins at [erihiggins@unmc.edu](mailto:erihiggins@unmc.edu). We will be happy to arrange for a graduate student, a faculty member, or Misty to present a seminar that fits the needs of your students.



Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

## Summer Undergraduate Research

Do you have students interested in the possibility of a research career who want to experience research for a summer? Encourage them to apply for the Summer Undergraduate Research Program at the Eppley Cancer Research Institute.

### Contact Information:

#### **Misty Pocwierz-Gaines**

Lead Training Navigator  
402-559-4092  
misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu

#### **Erin Higgins**

Assistant Training Navigator  
erihiggins@unmc.edu

#### **Joyce Solheim**

Project Leader  
402-559-4539  
jsolheim@unmc.edu

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This program offers 10 weeks of hands-on biomedical research in a wide variety of cancer research labs. All SURP students are provided with a graduate student mentor, a faculty mentor, and a staff mentor to support them. Predoctoral students from the Cancer Research graduate programs host a weekly cancer biology basics workshop for undergraduate students. We have some funding to cover the cost of travel, meals, and housing for some qualified students. All students are paid \$6,000 for the summer.

All applicants must submit a paragraph summarizing their research interest, two letters of recommendation, and an unofficial college transcript. The application is open November 1 through February 1. Please share with students so they can prepare for applying come fall.

