

Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center Training Navigator Newsletter

March 2024 Newsletter

Volume 2

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

Training Navigator Program Updates

Last month we introduced you to the Training Navigator Program at the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center as well as some of our educational programs. This month we will dive a little deeper into the Master's Program and give you updates on opportunities that have been created by the Training Navigator Program. As a reminder, to request a Training Navigator visit your campus, email Misty Pocwierz-Gaines.



We are excited to report that Erin Higgins has joined our Training Navigator Team as an Assistant Training Navigator. Erin has very quickly made a huge impact on our team, and we can't wait to see what she can help us achieve.

Cancer Research Master's Program

Students at the Buffett Cancer Center can pursue different graduate study tracks, and many choose to join BCC's Cancer Research Master's Program, which allows them to prepare for a career in biomedical sciences and engage in work that explores the root causes of cancer as well as the ways in which cancer is detected and treated.

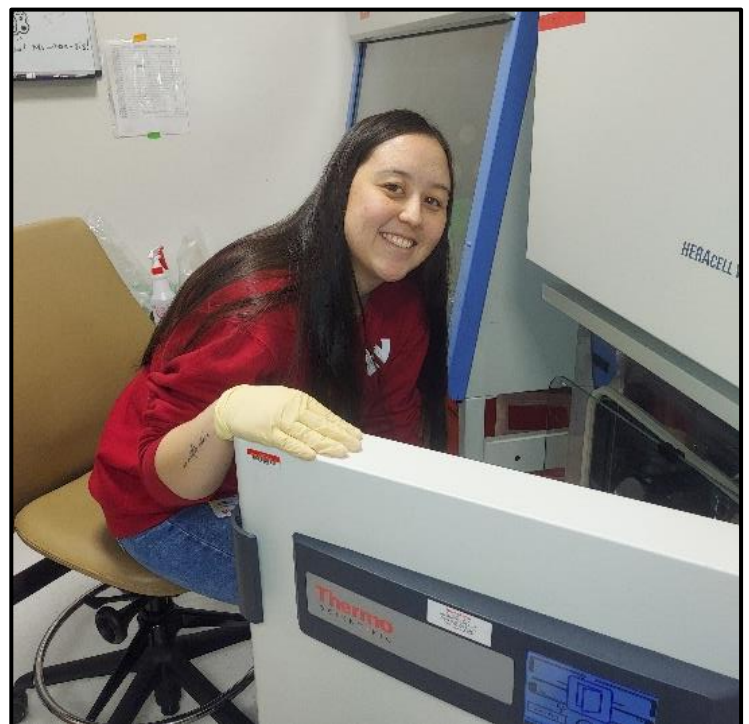
BCC's Master's Program graduates have taken positions doing research in both the private sector and academia, and some graduates pursue further studies in MD and/or PhD programs.

All Cancer Research MS students receive a stipend of \$16,500 and a tuition waiver. Additionally, UNMC students' fees and health insurance are paid for the student.

What can you do with a Masters in Cancer Research?

Here are some of the roles that recent BCC Master's students have stepped into after graduating:

- Research Technician II in academia
- Research Chemist at Elemental Scientific
- Senior Research Associate at Entrada Therapeutics
- Senior Associate Scientist at Pfizer
- Medical School
- Cancer Research Doctoral Studies



Cancer Research Master's Students Are Active in the Community



Each year the Cancer Research graduate students organize an event for the Eppley Institute that raises money for the family of a cancer patient that will be spending the holidays in the hospital.

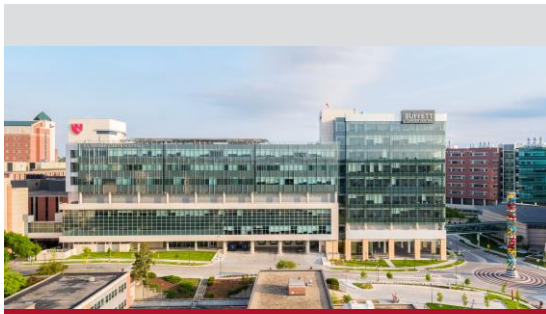
Students also work with the Ronald McDonald House and complete a back-to-school supplies drive annually. Each year students sprinkle in other charity events such as fun runs and walks.



Students took their dogs of a walk for the Nebraska Humane Society last year, raising funds to support one of the animal shelters in Omaha.

Cancer Research Students Have Fun In and Outside of the Laboratory





Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

Training Program Early Outcomes

Since December 2023, the Training Navigator Program has provided trainees with approximately \$30,000 worth of scholarships to attend professional development events and scientific conferences. These scholarships have given trainees access to professional networks and cutting-edge information that will be vital to them as they progress through their careers. The professional skills workshops that the trainees have attended have already started impacting the trainees' confidence in public speaking and grant writing. See below for examples of the conferences and professional skills events that trainees have been able to attend.

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

The Training Navigator Program is funded by NCI Cancer Center Support Grant supplement number P30 CA036727-37S4

- European Association of Urology Annual Congress
- Synthetic Biology: Engineering, Evolution & Design (SEED) Conference
- The Grant Funding Formula" (by Dr. Sarah Dobson)
- Small Cell Lung Cancer Consortium Meeting
- American Association of Immunologists' Immunology 2024 Conference
- Beyond the Manuscript: A Skills Workshop for Improving Research Dissemination
- Advanced Data Analysis Course sponsored by De Novo

