

Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center Training Navigator Newsletter

October 2024 UNMC Newsletter Volume 9

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,
UNMC



Erin Higgins
Assistant Training Navigator

A Rare Pairing



It isn't often that you find two people getting PhDs with overlapping research interests who also happen to be a couple. Kia Liermann-Wooldrik and Colin

Wooldrik are some of those rare people. They both study with FPBCC faculty members, Kia in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Colin in Genetics, Cell Biology, & Anatomy.

After growing up in small towns 20 minutes apart in rural Nebraska, they both attended college in Lincoln and then began graduate programs at UNMC in August of 2022. They married that October. They often talk through their individual research at home, helping one another to solve problems and find new avenues for exploration in their research. Kia and Colin find joy in bringing their different perspectives on cancer biology together and often discuss their research over dinner, drinks, or while walking the dog. In the future, they would love to work closely together, whether that is running one lab together or having two separate labs with connected projects.

Scholar Spotlight: Kia Liermann-Wooldrik



Kia is training in Dr. Becky Deegan's lab. Her thesis is aimed at investigating how radiation treatment affects the microenvironment of an adipose-rich tumor aiding in the progression of colorectal and prostate cancer. Thus far, her research has shown that in mice radiation causes damage to adipose tissues up to 6 months after radiation treatment. Further, the damaged tissue has an increased release of

fatty acids (lipolysis). These fatty acids are taken up by cancer cells and used as an alternative energy source for migration and metastasis.

Kia has found the Training Navigator program very beneficial. She was able to attend her first international conference using a Training Navigator travel award where she presented her research and networked with others in the field of lipid biology. She also finds benefit from the professional development events shared by the program for students both inside and outside of UNMC. Kia wants to stay in academia and end up in a faculty position at a graduate institution with a strong cancer biology department. We're excited to see her reach this goal after completing her PhD!

Scholar Spotlight: Colin Wooldrik



Colin is training in Dr. Suyong Choi's lab. His research focuses on the unusual role of phosphoinositides within the non-membranous nucleus. These are phospholipids, usually found in the cell membrane, that play an important role in membrane function. Their role in the nucleus is less clear. Currently he is investigating a yet undescribed signaling pathway resulting in non-mutational epigenetic remodeling and tumorigenic transcription in cancer.

Colin appreciates the monthly Training Navigator newsletters and the highlighting of upcoming professional development and fellowship opportunities available to students. Like Kia, Colin was able to utilize a travel award to attend his first international conference where he presented some of his research and networked with scientists from around the world. Colin also wants to stay in academia and says he and Kia will likely be competing to see who can secure a faculty position first. We're excited to see Colin's career progression and are rooting for a tie between him and Kia!

Training Navigator Program Renewal



The National Cancer Institute (NCI) Center for Cancer Health Equity has renewed UNMC's Training Navigator Program for another year. This renewal will allow continuance of our efforts to facilitate UNMC Training Navigator

NCI Center for Cancer Health Equity scholars' submission of successful grant proposals, development of new skills, networking with other scientists, and progression in cancer research and clinical care pathways. Funding for conference attendance awards and professional development awards will be available. This year, NCI has linked receiving these awards to submission of some type of NIH grant proposal or application to an NIH program such as iCURE or the Early Investigator Advancement Program (EIAP) at some point during the year. If you have any questions about applying for these awards, please contact Dr. Joyce Solheim (jsolheim@unmc.edu).

AACR Annual Meeting 2025



The next AACR Annual Meeting will be held on April 25-30, 2025 at the McCormick Place Convention Center

in Chicago, IL. The abstract deadline is coming up in November, so make plans now to attend this great gathering of cancer scientists!

<https://www.aacr.org/meeting/aacr-annual-meeting-2025/>

AACR Abstract Deadline:

11:59 pm EST/ 10:59 pm CST on Tuesday November 26, 2024

AACR Housing Deadline: Friday March 14, 2025

NIH Biosketch

| <small>OMB No. 0925-0001 and 0925-0002 (Rev. 10/2021 Approved Through 01/31/2026)</small> | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH <small>Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors. Follow this format for each person. DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.</small> | | | | |
| NAME: | | | | |
| eRA COMMONS <u>USER NAME</u> (credential, e.g., agency login): | | | | |
| POSITION TITLE: | | | | |
| EDUCATION/TRAINING <i>(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)</i> | | | | |
| INSTITUTION AND LOCATION | DEGREE <i>(if applicable)</i> | Start Date MM/YYYY | Completion Date MM/YYYY | FIELD OF STUDY |
| | | | | |

The NIH requires that each person that serves as senior/key personnel or other significant contributor on a grant submit a NIH- compliant biosketch at the time of submission. Why is this document required and how should it be completed? NIH staff And peer reviewers utilize the

biosketch to ensure that individuals included on the applications are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research. Misty Pocwierz-Gaines will be holding a workshop to assist scholars with creating and updating their biosketch.

December 4, 2024, from 12:00-1:00 pm in DRC I 1004. Lunch will be provided. Email Misty, misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu, to register. If you attend the event but still want assistance, email Misty to schedule a one-on-one session.

CCHE Professional Advancement Virtual Engagement Series (PAVES)



Professional Advancement Virtual Engagement Seminar (PAVES) was developed by the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities to provide meaningful career development and resources to support diverse scientists to achieve research independence. On the last Wednesday of each month from 2:00-3:00 p.m. (Central Time), post-doctoral student scientists, clinician scientists, researchers, and

others join to explore NIH funding opportunities, identify new resources to advance their scientific career, and acquire new insights and skills in the research grant proposal development process. You can access recordings of prior sessions here: <https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/cche/about-health-disparities/resources/paves>. One specific presentation that scholars may find immediately beneficial is the recording of the “The Nuts and Bolts of Research Applications: Peer Review at the NIH.”

Demystifying the IRB Process



Are you interested in conducting clinical trials in the future, but intimidated by the Internal Review Board (IRB)? You are not alone!

Join the Interprofessional Academy of Research for a one-hour virtual event titled “Demystifying IRB Review for Educational Scholarship” The event will focus on educational research but will still give an overview of the process all researchers at UNMC use to submit an IRB.

November 1, 2024, at 9:00 am. Get more information HERE:

<https://events.unmc.edu/event/education-scholarship-connection-4054>.

Individuals that need to submit an IRB and have questions can always attend the IRB Office hours the 2nd Monday of the month at 9:00-10:00 am and the 4th Thursday of the month from 2:00-3:00 pm via Zoom.

See <https://www.unmc.edu/irb/> for more information.

Managing Imposter Syndrome



Do you find yourself thinking that you have only gotten this far because you have gotten lucky? Do you worry that one day people will find out that you aren't prepared to be in this role? We have great news for you! You do deserve to be in your role, and you aren't a fraud. These feelings are very common and are classic symptoms of imposter syndrome. Imposter syndrome can stop people

from advancing in their career. You do not have to be held back by your feelings of inadequacy and self-doubt. Jeff Knapp, LICSW, Director of Counseling and Psychological Services is presenting “Managing Imposter Syndrome” He will be providing tips to help you understand and overcome your imposter syndrome. This seminar can help individuals become better at networking and finding collaborators.

November 21 at 12:00 pm in DRC I 1004. Lunch will be provided.

Contact Misty Pocwierz-Gaines, misty.pocwierz@unmc.edu to register.

AI in Research at UNMC

**Fred and Pamela Buffett
Cancer Center**



Join researchers from across the UNMC campus to discuss the ethical ways that AI is being used in research at UNMC on November 20th from 9-10 am



on Zoom. This series provides a chance to talk with colleagues across UNMC about how they have encountered or integrated AI in their work. This seminar is sponsored by the UNMC AI Task Force. You can find the Zoom links [here](#).

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Important Dates

- Nov 1 Demystifying the IRB 9-10 am via Zoom
- Nov 4-7 UNeMed Innovation Week
- Nov 4 Kick-off – 9-11 am – DRC1 Atrium
- Nov 4 Seminar: Ins & Outs of Ideation – 12-1 pm – via Zoom
- Nov 5 Seminar: The Design Thinking Experience – 12-1 pm
McGoogan Design Hub
- Nov 6 Panel: Alternative Careers in Science – 12-1 pm – DRC1 1005
- Nov 7 Workshop: Hands-on 3D Printing & Design
10:30 am-12 pm – McGoogan Linder Maker Studio
- Nov 7 Lunch & Learn: UNeTech Services Showcase – 12-1 pm
via Zoom & DRC1 1004
- Nov 7 Catalyst Tours – 4-6 pm – UNMC Catalyst
- Nov 7 Innovation Week Research Innovation Awards Reception
5-8 pm – UNMC Catalyst
- Nov 20 AI in Research at UNMC
- Nov 21 Managing Imposter Syndrome
- Nov 25 ICURE Deadline
- Dec 8 NCI F30/F31 Submission Deadline

