

Cancer Prevention Research Training Program? Spring 2018 Edition



Funding Conclusions:

- NCI R25T Fellowships in Cancer Prevention (R25 CA057730), **June 30, 2018**
- NIDA Innovative Multidisciplinary Education: The Statistical Genetics of Addiction (R25 DA026120), **March 31, 2017 (NCE)**
- Retention in Research Careers: Mentoring for Scientific Communication Skills (R01 GM085600), **August 31, 2017**

New Grant Awards:

- **Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT)**
Postdoctoral Fellowship in Cancer Prevention, R170259, Drs. Shine Chang and Sanjay Shete, Principal Investigators
- **Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT)**
Scientific Communication Advances Research Excellence (SCOARE), R25 GM125640, Drs. Carrie Cameron and Shine Chang, Principal Investigators
- **National Cancer Institute (NCI) Perfect score on renewal application!**
Cancer Prevention Education: Student Research Experiences, R25 CA056452, Dr. Shine Chang, Principal Investigator
- INCan Mexico City - Cancer Prevention Initiative, National Cancer Institute/CFRD contract

Notable Achievements:

- Carrie Cameron, Commitment to Mentoring award, **MDACC**
- Shine Chang, **Yale Cancer Center** – Executive Advisory Board
- **Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI)**, 2007 Gilliam Fellows Annual Meeting, invited presenter (Chang & Cameron)
- **Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)**, 2017 Innovations in Research and Research Education Award for the *Gulf Coast Consortia Rigor & Reproducibility Workshop* (Cameron)

Trainee Alumni Accolades:

- **Melissa Kok** (R25E Summer College Student, 2017), accepted to MD/MPH dual degree program (Baylor College of Medicine/University of Texas School of Public Health); accepted into Phi Beta Kappa honor society (Rice University)
- **Henry Henderson** (R25E Summer GRA, 2017), the AACR Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Award
- **Adriana Coletta** (R25T Postdoc, 2016-2018), Accepted tenure-track Assistant Professor position at Huntsman Cancer Institute and University of Utah Department of Kinesiology (effective 8/1/8)
- **Jeanne Pierzynski** (R25T Predoc, 2014-2017), Postdoctoral Fellow, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- **Argentina Ornelas** (R25T Postdoc, 2015-2017), Instructor, Western Governors University
- **Stephen Huo** (Halliburton Postdoc, 2015-2017), Assistant Professor, Health Services Resesarch, Management & Policy, University of Florida

W e l c o m e

**New CP RTP
Staff**

Paolo Mangahas
Operations Manager
November 28, 2017
(from UTMB)

Martha Ficklin
Program Coordinator
January 2, 2018
(from Cancer Systems Imaging)

Aquia Williams
Senior Secretary
March 1, 2018
(from Academic Visa Administration)

NCI R25T Postdoctoral Fellowships in Cancer Prevention (Postdoctoral Fellows & Highlights n=5)

- MD Anderson Education Program in Cancer Prevention (5R25 CA057730, National Cancer Institute)

Ryan Bohlender, Ph.D.



Epidemiology, Dr. Chad Huff,
July 16, 2016 - June 30, 2018

Whole-exome case control studies of common and rare cancer types to identify and characterize cancer susceptibility genes

*Presented poster at American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) conference

Adriana Coletta, Ph.D.

Behavioral Science, Dr. Karen Basen-Engquist
May 24, 2016 - May 23, 2018

The Influence of High Intensity Interval Training on Visceral Adipose Tissue and Breast Cancer Risk in Women at Heightened Risk for Breast Cancer

*Submitted K99/R00 grant (10/17)

*Submitted R01 and PCORI grants as a postdoc (10/17)

*Transformed K99/R00 to R21 and submitted with mentor (2/18)

*Preparing K22 grant application for June 2018 submission

*Thirteen (13) manuscripts in the pipeline: 4 published, 5 submitted, and 3 in-process

*Eight (8) oral presentations since 09/17 at NCI, Texas A&M, MDACC, and ASPO

*Served as ad hoc reviewer for Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition

*Served as a co-chair for a junior member session at ASPO



Yuyan Han, Ph.D.

Epidemiology, Dr. Jian Gu
June 1, 2016 - May 31, 2018

DNA Methylation in Peripheral Blood Leukocytes and Health Disparity in Prostate Cancer

*Accepted tenured-track Assistant Professor position at University of Northern Colorado (8/18)



Yasminka 'Sasha' Jakubek, Ph.D.

Epidemiology, Dr. Paul Scheet
October 16, 2016 - June 30, 2018

Identification and Characterization of early copy number changes in NSCLC progression

*Oral research talk at 2 conferences: "Association of germline variation with clonal mosaicism", at The American Association for Human Genetics Annual Meeting (10/17) and the TMC Annual Postdoctoral Science Symposium (9/17)

*Presented poster at American Association of Cancer Research-AACR (4/18) titled, *Pan-cancer landscape of allelic imbalance in adjacent to tumor normal tissues: Insights into field cancerization and cancer pathogenesis*



Monica Reyes, Ph.D.

Epidemiology, Dr. Michelle Hildebrandt
June 1, 2016 - May 31, 2018

Investigating Mechanisms of Anthracycline-Induced Cardiotoxicity Using Human-Inducible Pluripotent Stem Cell Cardiomyocytes

*Presented posters at 2 conferences: The International Conference on Long-Term Complications of Treatment of Children and Adolescents for Cancer in Atlanta (6/17) and Integrative Molecular Epidemiology Workshop (7/17)



(Predoctoral Fellows & Highlights n=2)

Kyle Chang, B.S., Ph.D. Candidate (2018)



Clinical Cancer Prevention, Dr. Eduardo Vilar-Sanchez
June 1, 2015 - May 31, 2018

Whole-exome case control studies of common and rare cancer types to identify and characterize cancer susceptibility genes

- *Presented a poster titled "Lynch Syndrome Premalignancy Upregulates Immune Checkpoints Independently From Neoantigen and Mutational Rates" at AACR (4/18)
- *Published first author paper, "Immune Profiling of Premalignant Lesions in Patients With Lynch Syndrome" in *Jama Oncology* (4/18)
- *Oral presentation titled, "Genomic Landscape of Premalignant Lesions in Patients with Familial Adenomatous Polyposis" at the Genetics and Epigenetics Research Symposium (4/18)

Margaret Raber, B.S., Ph.D. Candidate (2018)



Pediatrics Research, Dr. Joya Chandra
June 16, 2016 - June 15, 2018

Observed cooking behaviors of families with and without childhood cancer survivors and the development of a healthy cooking assessment tool

- *Published 7 papers in *Journal of School Health*, *Public Health Nutrition*, *Appetite*, *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, *Nutritional Journal*, *Frontiers in Women's Health* and *Journal of Community Health*.
- *Presented research at 3 conferences: AACR (1/18); Teaching Kitchen Collaborative Research Day in Napa Valley, CA (2/18) and Survivorship Research Symposium at MDACC (3/18).
- *Received travel award from Teaching Kitchen Collaborative Research Day, 2018
- *Selected as MDACC's applicant for a F99/K00 NCI Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Fellow Transition grant (2/18)

Donor-Funded Postdoctoral Fellowships in Cancer Prevention (New Awardees n=2)

- The Halliburton Employees Contribution Fund Fellowship in Cancer Prevention Research
- The Janice Davis Gordon Memorial Fellowship in Colorectal Cancer Prevention Research



Preeti Kanikarla Marie, Ph.D.

Gordon Memorial Postdoctoral Fellow in Colorectal Cancer Prevention
Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology
Mentors: Drs. Scott Kopetz and Eduardo Vilar-Sanchez
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2020



Lewins Walter, Ph.D.

Halliburton Postdoctoral Fellow in Cancer Prevention
Clinical Cancer Prevention
Mentors: Drs. Eduardo Vilar-Sanchez and Florencia McAllister
July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2020

CPRIT Postdoctoral Fellowships in Cancer Prevention (Fellows & Highlights n=5)

- Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas MD Anderson Education Program in Cancer Prevention (RP1702590)



Joel Bertrand Fokom Domgue, M.D.

Gynecological and Oncology Reproductive Medicine, Dr. Kathleen Schmeler

November 27, 2017 - November 26, 2019

Self-sampling for HPV testing to improve cervical cancer screening coverage in hard-to-reach populations: a pilot study

- *Drafted book chapter, "Conservative management of cervix cancer: current status and obstetrical implications"
- *Oral presentation, "Current status of cervical cancer screening and prevention in Cameroon" at MDACC Echo teleconference (2/2018)
- *Invited speaker at 9th International Conference on Cervical Cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa in Dschang, Cameroon (3/2018)
- *Submitted abstract for International Papilloma-Virus Conference in Sydney, Australia
- *Presented research, "Current Status of Cervical Cancer Screening and Prevention in Cameroon", during ECHO teleconference at MDACC (2/2018)



Nathan Parker, Ph.D.

Behavioral Science, Dr. Karen Basen-Engquist

September 8, 2017 - September 7, 2019

Exercise motivation and objectively-measured physical activity among patients participating in a preoperative exercise program while undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer

- *Presented research talk, "Do social support and neighborhood walkability influence physical activity during preoperative pancreatic cancer therapy?" at SBM in New Orleans (4/18)
- *Presented poster, "Physical activity is associated with improved quality of life and functional fitness among patients receiving preoperative therapy for pancreatic cancer" at ASPO (3/18)
- *Publication accepted by American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine, "Integrating physical activity into clinical cancer care" (3/18)



Anushree Sharma, Ph.D.

Behavioral Science, Dr. Irene Tami-Maury

October 16, 2017 - October 15, 2019

Cancer Screening Prevalence among Tobacco Users in the United States: Findings from the National Health Interview Survey

- *Presented a poster at SRNT, "Using a Smoking Cessation Quitline to Promote Lung Cancer Screening" (2/18)
- *Presented poster at ASPO, "Use of Smoking Cessation Quitlines Among Participants Reporting Quit Attempts in the Past Year: Results from the International Tobacco Control (ITC) Four Country Survey, US Sample" (3/18)
- *Submitted abstract to APHA, "Lesbians and Tobacco Use: A Sexual Minority Group at Higher Risk of Tobacco Related Illness and Death" (2018)



Ivan Haw-Chong Wu, Ph.D.

Health Disparities Research, Dr. Lorna McNeill

October 11, 2017 - October 10, 2019

The Role of Mental Health and Health Behaviors in Increasing Cancer Risk Among Ethnic Minorities

- *Presented posters at three (3) conferences: SBM (4/18), ASPO (3/18) and Cancer Survivorship Symposium (3/18)
- *Submitted three (3) manuscripts for review



Jiali Zheng, Ph.D.

Epidemiology, Dr. Carrie Daniel-MacDougall

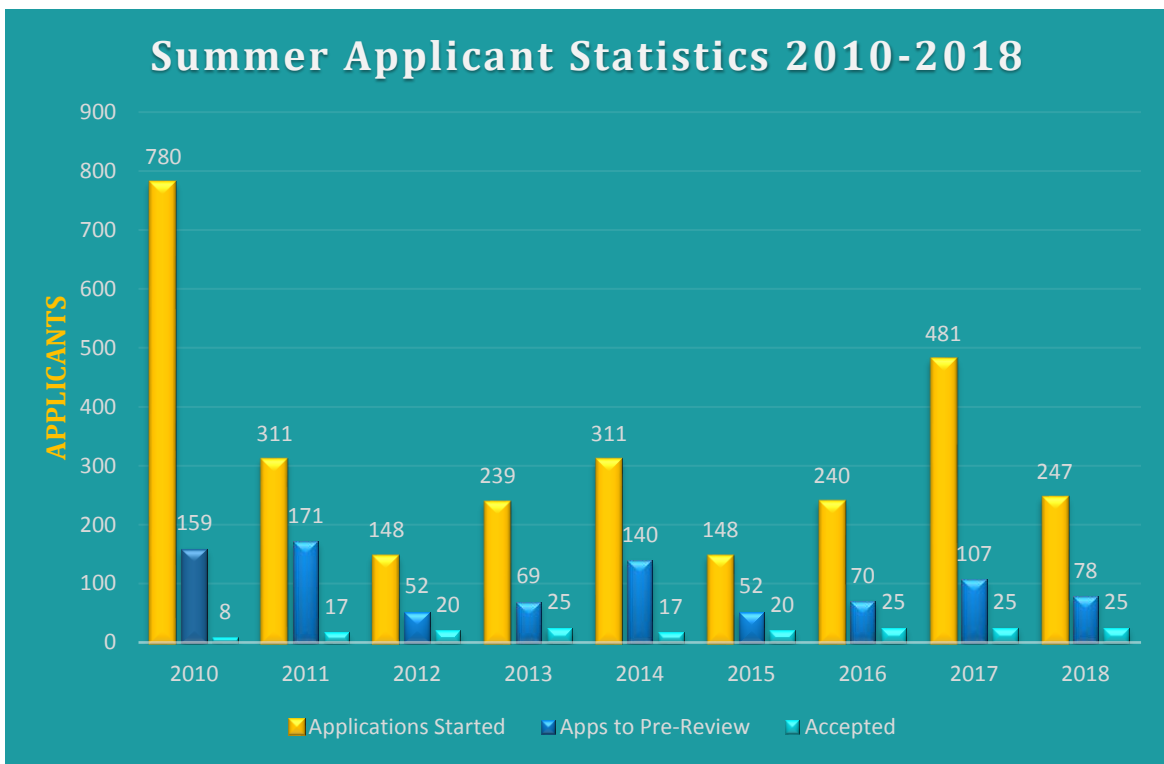
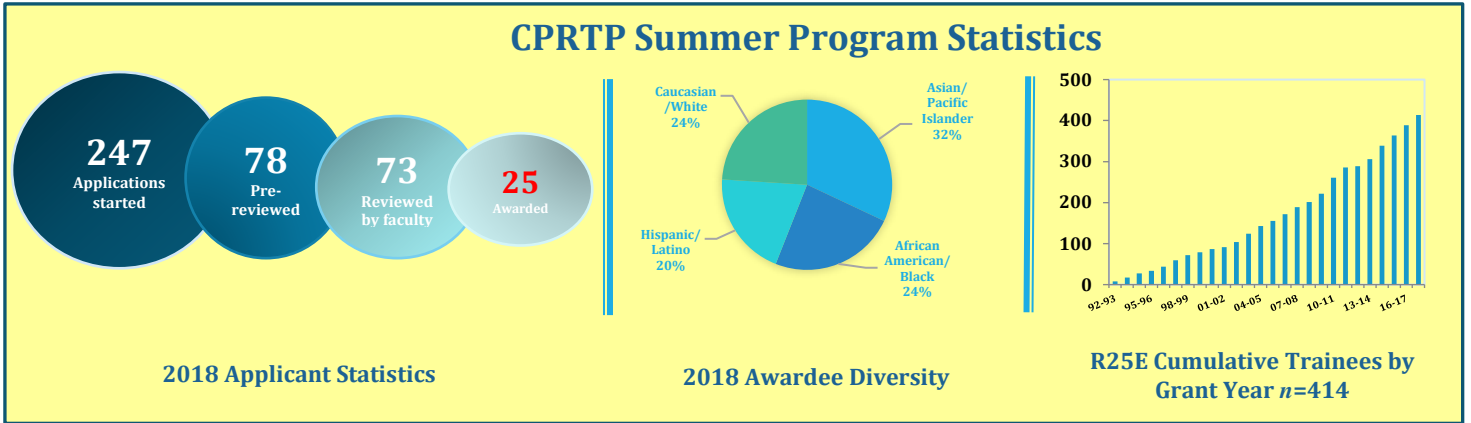
October 16, 2017 - October 15, 2019

Associations of diet, microbiome, and genetics: exploring determinants of pancreatic cancer risk

- *Presented poster, "Inflammatory potential of diet, inflammation-related lifestyle factors and risk of pancreatic cancer: results from the NIH-AARP Diet and Health Study" at ASPO in (3/18)
- *Published first-author paper, "Dietary inflammatory index and risk of pancreatic cancer in the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and Ovarian (PLCO) Cancer Screening Trial" in International Journal of Cancer

NCI R25E CPRTP Summer Research Experience

- Cancer Prevention Education – Student Research Experiences (5R25 CA056452, National Cancer Institute)
- Applications accepted annually: December 1st - January 18th



2018 Summer Research Experience Roster (n=25)



Anita Akinyemi
Graduate Research Asst.
University of Houston -
Victoria
Dr. Mary Austin
Surgical Oncology



Kenda Al-Assi
Research Medical Student
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland -
Medical University of Bahrain
Dr. Manal Hassan
Epidemiology



Caroline Andrews
College Student
Hillsdale College
Dr. Paul Scheet
Epidemiology



Marjorie Biel
Graduate Research Asst.
University of Michigan -
Ann Arbor
Dr. Irene Tami-Maury
Behavioral Science



Briana Brown
Graduate Research Asst.
Texas A & M University -
College Station
Dr. Larkin Strong
Health Disparities Research



Jonathan Busquets
College Student
Rice University
Dr. Carrie Daniel-MacDougall
Epidemiology



Noah Choi
College Student
Rice University
Dr. Lisa Lowenstein
Health Services Research



Princess Ekpo
College Student
Emory University
Dr. Sharon Giordano
Health Services Research



Rosa Frias
Research Medical Student
San Juan Bautista School of Medicine
Dr. Scott Kopetz
Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology



Karthik Goli
College Student
Rice University
Drs. Jennifer Davis & Scott Kopetz
Epidemiology



Jessica Gorzelitz-Liebhauser
Graduate Research Asst.
University of Wisconsin -
Madison
Dr. Karen Basen-Engquist
Behavioral Science



Sravya Gurivreddygari
College Student
Florida Atlantic University -
Wilkes Honors College
Drs. Lorna McNeill & Dalnim Cho
Health Disparities



Brianna Jacobs
Graduate Research Asst.
University of Michigan -
Ann Arbor
Dr. Karen Basen-Engquist
Behavioral Science



Hansini Krishna
Graduate Research Asst.
Case Western Reserve
University
Dr. Samir 'Sam' Hanash
Clinical Cancer Prevention



Ashlynn McCall
College Student
Texas Southern University
Dr. Alex Prokhorov
Behavioral Science



Rizul Naithani
Research Medical Student
Campbell University
Dr. Clifton Fuller
Radiation Oncology



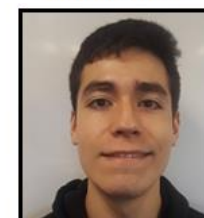
Connie Okon
Graduate Research Asst.
Case Western Reserve
University
Dr. Mala Pande
Gastroenterology



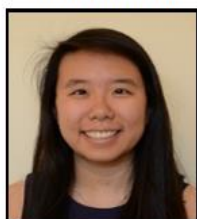
Megan Peterson
Graduate Research Asst.
Morehead State
University
Dr. Guang Peng
Clinical Cancer



Amanda Rakoski
College Student
Texas A & M University -
College Station
Dr. Florencia McAllister
Clinical Cancer Prevention



Kevin Ruiz
College Student
University of Notre Dame
Dr. Maher Karam-Hage
Behavioral Science



Shu-En 'Annie' Shen
College Student
Rice University
Dr. Karen Basen-Engquist
Behavioral Science



Akaanksh Shetty
Research Medical Student
Texas Tech University
Dr. Pratip Bhattacharya
Cancer Systems Imaging



Emily Steinman
College Student
University of Houston - Downtown
Dr. Joya Chandra
Pediatrics - Research



Daniel Wang
College Student
Rice University
Dr. Lawrence Kwong
Translational Molecular Pathology



Andrea Winne
Graduate Research Asst.
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
Drs. Karen Basen-Engquist & Yue Liao
Behavioral Science