CCPS Research in Progress

The Cancer Control and Population Sciences (CCPS) Program Research in Progress (RIP) Seminars are held once a month. The meetings are open to faculty, clinicians, graduate students and trainees. Presentations may concern grant proposals in preparation or to be resubmitted, research projects in progress, or manuscripts in preparation for a recently completed project. If you or your trainees would like to present in the RIP Seminar series, please e-mail Heather Podolan at heather.podolan@hci.utah.edu.

Publications

CCPS members have published over 525 peer-reviewed papers from 2009 through 2013. 463 were collaborative publications.

Member Recognitions

Carol Sweeney, PhD, has been appointed Director of the Utah Cancer Registry. Dr. Sweeney has 15 years of experience in cancer epidemiology, with research focused on molecular cancer epidemiology and the epidemiology of cancer survivors. While taking on the role of UCR director, she will retain her current positions as an associate professor in the Division of Epidemiology, Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Utah and an investigator at the Huntsman Cancer Institute.

CCPS Pilot Awards 2014—2015

PI: Mark Fluchel, MD Collaborators: Kathi Mooney, PhD, RN; Anne Kirchhoff, PhD; Yelena Wu, PhD
Project: The Use of Tablet Computers to Improve Care Delivery to Pediatric Oncology patients

PI: Nicola Camp, PhD and Jay Gertz, PhD Co-PI Collaborators: Deb Neklason, PhD
Project: Functional Mapping of Breast Cancer Susceptibility Variants at 2q33

PI: Lisa Cannon-Albright, PhD Collaborators: Wallace Akerly, MD; Mia Hashibe, PhD; Craig Teerlink, PhD; Melissa Cessna, PhD; Kerry Rowe, PhD
Project: Informative Analysis of High Risk Non-Smoking-related Lung Cancer Pedigrees to Identify Predisposition Genes

PI: Yelena Wu, PhD Collaborators: Lisa Aspinwall, PhD; Doug Grossman, MD; Wendy Kohlmann, MS, CGC; Cynthia Berg, PhD
Project: Communication of Elevated Risk for Melanoma to Children and Adolescents

Acknowledgment Reminder

For submitted manuscripts in which Cancer Center shared resources have been used, please include a statement indicating Cancer Center Grant Support in the acknowledgments. For example, “We acknowledge the use of shared resources supported by P30 CA042014 awarded to Huntsman Cancer Institute.”
**New CCPS Members**

**Deanna Kepka, PhD, MPH**, is an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing. Her focus is health care access and services for cancer prevention and control among minority and underserved populations; currently her work focuses on HPV vaccination uptake.

**Jakob Jensen, PhD**, has a joint appointment as an Assistant Professor in Communications and Health Promotion and Education. His research examines the strategic communication of health information with a special focus on cancer.

**Lauri Linder, PhD, APRN, CPON**, is an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing. Dr. Linder’s research is in the area of symptom management in children and adolescents with cancer.

**Maija A. Reblin, PhD**, is a research Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing. Her research focuses on how relationship quality and communication interact to influence physical and psychological stress in advanced cancer family caregivers.

**Yelena Wu, PhD, MA**, is a pediatric and clinical child psychologist and Assistant Professor in Family and Preventive Medicine and Pediatrics. Dr. Wu is interested in improving adherence to medical regimens among children and adolescents/young adults who have cancer. She is also exploring how to effectively convey cancer genetic risk information to children.

**New HCI CCPS Staff Investigator**

**Martha Slattery, PhD**, was appointed a HCI Staff Investigator. She is a highly distinguished and productive molecular epidemiologist who focuses on a variety of cancers, with special emphasis in Native American and Hispanic Populations.

**Recent Grant Awards**

**Pls: Mia Hashibe, PhD & Sean Tavtigian, PhD**  
**Source:** NIH National Institute Dental Craniofacial Research  
**1R01DE023414-01A1**  
**Title:** Exome Sequencing for Head and Neck Cancer Susceptibility Genes  
**Period:** 2014—2019

**Pl:** Mary Beckerle, PhD  
**CCSG Supplement Project Leader:** Deanna Kepka, PhD, MPH  
**Source:** NCI P30CA042014-25S2  
**Title:** HPV Immunization Programs with a Focus of HPV Vaccination in Pediatric Settings  
**Period:** 2014—2015

**Pl:** Jonine Bernstein, PhD  
**Subcontract PI:** Saundra Buys, MD  
**Source:** R01CA183086-01A1  
**Title:** MRI Background Parenchymal Enhancement as a Risk Factor for Breast Cancer

**Office Space**—for CCPS members who have offices on other parts of campus—room 4123 is available for your use when you drop in. The room will either be unlocked or see Heather Podolan (room 4146) for a key.

Ground has been broken for the new HCI Phase IV Building—construction will take place over the next two years. The floor plans are located on the 5th floor outside Trudy Duncan’s office.

**Coming in the Fall and WELCOME……**

**Neli Ulrich, PhD**, has accepted an appointment as Senior Director of Population Sciences at Huntsman Cancer Institute and professor in the School of Medicine. Dr. Ulrich is an epidemiologist whose work is focused on how factors, such as diet, exercise, and use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents influence colorectal cancer risk, prevention, and prognosis.

**Kim Kaphingst, PhD**, has accepted a position at the University of Utah Department of Communications. Dr. Kaphingst is a highly respected communications specialist interested in genetic and genomic risk communication in cancer.