

In Balance

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MDAnderson
Cancer Center
Making Cancer History®

February 2017

The Center for Energy Balance in Cancer Prevention and Survivorship, of the Duncan Family Institute, facilitates and conducts state-of-the-science research to understand the relationship between activity, nutrition, obesity and cancer, and uses this knowledge to optimize interventions to decrease cancer risk and improve cancer outcomes. The Center sponsors collaborative research, transdisciplinary educational opportunities and seminars to create, produce and disseminate innovative and practice-changing research results.

Upcoming Conferences

March 11-14, Seattle, WA

[American Society of Preventive Oncology: 41st Annual ASPO Conference](#)

March 12-15, National Harbor, MD

[Society of Gynecologic Oncology: Annual Meeting on Women's Cancer](#)

March 29 – April 1, San Diego, CA

[Society of Behavioral Medicine \(SBM\): 38th Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions](#)

Upcoming Abstract Submission Deadlines

June 7-10, Victoria, Canada

[International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity: Advancing Behavior Change Science](#)

Late Breaking Abstracts: March 3

June 12-15, Clearwater Beach, FL

[NIH Science of Team Science \(SciTS\) Conference](#)

Abstracts Due: March 17

November 1-3, Washington, DC

[Obesity Week](#)

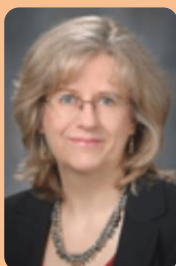
Abstracts due: April 23

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Center for Energy Balance in Cancer Prevention and Survivorship

Energy Balance Research Seminar February 16, 2017

Title: Double Trouble: Role of Testosterone Deficiency and Obesity in Prostate Cancer

Facilitated by: David S. Lopez, DrPH, MPH, MS

Location: ACB8.2680ab

Time: 12:00–1:00 PM

Research Spotlight: Getting to Know David S. Lopez, DrPH, MPH, MS

David Lopez is a determined man. For most of his career, he has studied and researched men's health, and how obesity, diet and physical activity may or may not prevent disease. In recent years, his focus has narrowed to the interplay between testosterone, obesity and prostate cancer, and how to prevent prostate cancer, in general.

"There is still so much we don't know," claims the Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Genetics and Environmental Sciences, Health Science Center, UT School of Public Health, and Adjunct Clinical Professor, Division of Urology, UT Health McGovern Medical School. His long title is apt for a man on a mission which is complex and sometimes, confounding.

"If we can reduce prostate cancer, what biological mechanism can we trace this to? There are so many factors to cancer, it's hard to pinpoint."

His pre-doctoral research demonstrated that obesity increases the risk of prostate cancer. In his post-doctoral research, he studied different measures of obesity, and in particular, if testosterone might be influenced by obesity. This was a more complex finding. "If obesity increases the risk of prostate cancer, why do we find low levels of levels of testosterone in men who are obese? Why doesn't a higher level of testosterone increase the risk of prostate cancer? And if men lose weight, do they now have a higher risk of contracting cancer?"

Dr. Lopez is anxious to develop randomized trials on how weight management, physical activity and diet affects testosterone, and has a particular interest in the relationship between obesity and testosterone in different racial groups. "We know prostate cancer is more prevalent in African Americans because of weight issues. That said, Hispanic men also tend to be overweight, but do not have the same prostate cancer risk. Another curious finding."

Dr. Lopez is also studying the use of testosterone therapy in men, which is promoted in the media as improving weight, health and importantly, sexual function. "The long-term effect of testosterone therapy is truly unknown," he states. "We know men who are followed by urologists are generally doing well, but healthy men who take it think it will be beneficial, and this is still uncertain. Testosterone decreases as men age, but there is a 'healthy low level,' which requires no need for therapy. We need clinical trials to determine whether therapy decreases the risk of prostate cancer and if just improving weight, diet and physical activity is enough to ward off disease. Some men take it who don't need it, and this can be a problem. Additionally, as in other research, we need to also study non-white populations, where the impact may be more pronounced."

"There are so many factors that impact onset of cancer," the list of research opportunities is endless," he claims. "We clearly need more clinical trial experts regarding weight management and diet to measure testosterone, and I invite others who are interested to work together on men's health issues which relate to energy balance."

"I am currently collaborating with urologists at UT McGovern Medical School, Johns Hopkins and Harvard School of Public Health, which has some wonderful data regarding the association between physical activity, weight management, testosterone and prostate cancer. Harvard has been following a number of men since 1986, and I am excited to see what we can uncover that ultimately benefits men's health issues."

A native of Mexico who moved to El Paso when he was 16, Dr. Lopez received his BS and his MS in Microbiology from UT El Paso, and his MPH and PhD in Epidemiology from UT-Houston School of Public Health. He held a Pre-doctoral Cancer Epidemiology Fellowship at MD Anderson and a Post-doctoral Cancer Epidemiology Fellowship at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He recently contributed to a book chapter in *Energy Balance and Prostate Cancer*, published in December, 2016, and currently teaches Epidemiology at UT Health-School of Public Health. He and his wife Beth, a violin teacher at Parker Elementary School, returned to Houston in 2011, and are expecting their first child this March.

Bionutrition Research Core News

The Bionutrition Research Core is excited to start using the iLab system to streamline the process of ordering and billing for core service requests. All facility users are invited to use the system, which requires a one-time registration. Once you are registered, the system will enable you to place service

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requests, provide required approvals, and monitor progress. Contact Christine Ranieri, Program Manager, at brc@mdanderson.org with any questions, or click [here](#) to navigate to our iLab core page. You can also access our iLab page through our [website](#).

Research to speed translation: Dissemination and implementation theories and methods course

Instructor: Maria E. Fernandez, PhD, Professor UTHHealth School of Public Health, Director, Center of Health Promotion & Prevention
When: February 16-17, 9-5pm
Where: 7000 Fannin Street (UCT)
Cost: \$750

Individuals who are interested should email Jo Spears (Jo.D.Spears@uth.tmc.edu) to register.

National Cancer Policy Forum Workshop

Reminder: free workshop that you can attend in person or by webcast: Incorporating Weight Management and Physical Activity Throughout the Cancer Care Continuum: A National Cancer Policy Forum Workshop
When: February 13-14, 2017
Where: Washington, DC
[Register](#)

Health and Behavior International Collaborative Award

Applicants can be trainees (graduate, professional students – e.g., residents) and ECPs (e.g., fellows, faculty) within 5 years of completing their terminal degree. Please send submission to H.B.InternationalAward@gmail.com **Deadline:** March 30th, 2017

This grant is jointly sponsored by the International Society of Behavioral Medicine (ISBM), the Society for Health Psychology of the American Psychological Association, and the American Psychosomatic Society. [Find out more and apply](#)

2017 Sandpit Workshop: Knowledge Integration Across Health Domains, Professions, and Nations to Advance Cancer Prevention

Applications must be emailed to NCI-CRUK-Sandpit2017@mail.nih.gov by **February 15, 2017, at 6 p.m. EST**. Early-and mid-career individuals interested in contributing their expertise and novel thinking to generate transformative ideas are especially encouraged to apply.

The intensive three-day residential workshop will take place **April 24-26, 2017**, in Potomac, Maryland.

Current Funding Opportunities

National Institutes of Health [Standard dates apply]
Testing Interventions for Health-Enhancing Physical Activity: [PAR-14-315 \(R01\)](#)
Developing Interventions for Health-Enhancing Physical Activity: [PAR-14-321 \(R21/R33\)](#)
Collaborative Innovation Award, Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program (U01): [PAR-15-172](#)
Advancing Translational and Clinical Probiotic/Prebiotic and Human Microbiome Research: [PA-15-127\(R01\)](#)
Education and Health: New Frontiers (R21): [PAR-16-078](#); (R01): [PAR-16-080](#); (R03): [PAR-16-079](#)
Examination of Survivorship Care Planning Efficacy and Impact (R21): [PA-16-011](#); (R01): [PA-16-012](#)
Exploratory/Developmental Clinical Research Grants in Obesity: [PA-15-163 \(R21\)](#)
Education and Health: New Frontiers (R21): [PAR-16-078](#); (R01): [PAR-16-080](#)
Systems Science and Health in the Behavioral and Social Sciences (R01): [PAR-15-048](#)
Translational Research to Improve Diabetes and Obesity Outcomes (R01): [PA-13-352](#)
Leveraging Cognitive Neuroscience to Improve Assessment of Cancer Treatment-Related Cognitive Impairment (R01): [PAR-16-212](#); (R21) [PAR-16-213](#)
Predicting Behavioral Responses to Population-Level Cancer Control Strategies (R21): [PAR-16-257](#)
Innovative Approaches to Studying Cancer Communication in the New Media Environment (R01): [PAR-16-249](#); (R21): [PAR-16-248](#)
Cancer-Related Behavioral Research through Integrating Existing Data (R01): [PAR-16-256](#); (R21): [PAR-16-255](#)
Stimulating Innovations in Behavioral Intervention Research for Cancer Prevention and Control (R21): [PAR-16-278](#)
National Cancer Institute Program Project Applications (P01): [PAR-15-023](#)
Physical Activity and Weight Control Interventions Among Cancer Survivors: Effects on Biomarkers of Prognosis and Survival (R21): [PAR-16-123](#); (R01): [PAR-16-122](#)

American Cancer Society

The Extramural Grants department encourages applications for research projects that focus on the multifaceted relationship between nutrition, physical activity and cancer: [Extramural Grants](#)

Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas

Competitive Continuation/Expansion-Evidence-Based Cancer Prevention Services: [RFA P-17.1-CCE](#)
Dissemination of CPRIT-Funded Cancer Control Interventions: [RFA P-17.1-DI](#)
Evidence-Based Cancer Prevention Services: [RFA P-17.1-EBP](#)
Evidence-Based Cancer Prevention Services - See, Test & Treat® Program: [RFA P-17.1-EBP-STT](#)
Cancer Prevention Promotion and Navigation to Clinical Services: [RFA P-17.1-PN](#)

