Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Fellows in Focus newsletter. On a quarterly basis, we will be bringing you current news and events to update you on the activities of the trainees in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences. Take a few minutes to read our newsletter and find out who is doing what, then please take a second to send us your comments and suggestions for the newsletter. Address comments and suggestions to: Dee Tello, Unit 189 at MDACC.
**Meet Some of Our Trainees**

The Division of Cancer Prevention is proud to introduce the newest awardees of the Cancer Prevention Education Program at M.D. Anderson. This program prepares future scientists to assume roles as research investigators in the field of cancer prevention. Potential applicants select a full-time M.D. Anderson faculty member involved in cancer prevention research who will supervise the trainees throughout the fellowship. Applicants also work closely with a co-mentor from a specialty or discipline different from that of the primary mentor. These fellowships are funded by the National Cancer Institute and require all applicants to be United States citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents (applicants with Visas are not eligible).

**Matthew Schabath, Ph.D.**  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Epidemiology

Matthew Schabath has been training as a Molecular Epidemiologist in the Department of Epidemiology at MD Anderson since September 1998. He began with a 6-month short-term traineeship followed by a 3-year Predoctoral Cancer Prevention fellowship, mentored by Xifeng Wu, M.D., Ph.D. Matthew recently completed his Ph.D. in Molecular Epidemiology at the University of Texas School of Public Health. The focus of his dissertation research was identification of genetic and dietary factors that could individually or jointly modify bladder cancer risk. Dr. Schabath is the first author of five of his eight published articles and has two additional manuscripts in press. The focus of Matthew’s postdoctoral fellowship will be to explore the role of dietary phytoestrogens (an estrogen-like compound found in food), genetic variation, and lung cancer. Drs. Margaret Spitz and Xifeng Wu are Matthew’s faculty mentors.

**Deidre Parish, Ph.D.**  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Epidemiology

Deidre A. Parish earned her Ph.D. at Texas Tech University last May with a dissertation entitled “Genome organization, mobile DNA, and chromosomal evolution in mammals.” She has a B.S. in Biology with minors in Chemistry and Mathematics, an M.S. in Zoology, and a Secondary Teaching Certification in Biology. She is well established with five publications and one manuscript in press. Deidre has extensive teaching experience, ranging from junior high science to undergraduate and graduate laboratory courses; fieldwork spanning Texas, Mexico and Ecuador; and laboratory training in cytogenetic and molecular techniques. She is an associate member of Sigma Xi and earned the American Cytogenetics Conference Student Travel Grant Award in 2002. She is affiliated with many professional societies and participates in committee work. Her postdoctoral fellowship proposal was entitled “The Study of LINES and Genetic Instability in Hodgkin’s Disease” Drs. Randa El-Zein and Sara Strom are Deirdre’s faculty mentors.
Patricia Daza, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Behavioral Science

Patricia Daza is a new postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Behavioral Science. She obtained her clinical psychology degree at the University of Houston and is a licensed psychologist in Texas. She has been the project director of the “Smoking relapse prevention among postpartum women” and “¡Adiós al Fumar!” which is a smoking cessation program for Spanish-speaking Hispanic individuals in Texas. Her interests are in cancer prevention and depression/anxiety, specifically with underserved populations. Patricia was awarded a minority supplement in 2002 and was chosen for the New Investigator Travel Award for the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) in 2003. She will present a poster at the 2004 SRNT conference. Patricia’s postdoctoral fellowship proposal was entitled “Negative Affect in Pregnant Women Who Have Quit Smoking: Self-report and Cognitive Predictors of Postpartum Relapse.” Drs. David Wetter and Andrew Waters are Patricia’s faculty mentors.

Nancy Tang, MS
Predoctoral Fellow, Department of Epidemiology

Nancy Tang moved to the United States in 1992 from Hong Kong and has been in the nursing field for many years. Nancy is currently working towards a Ph.D. degree in Epidemiology at the University of Texas School of Public Health. She is looking forward to her new role as a pre-doctoral fellow at MD Anderson Cancer Prevention Program. Nancy’s pre-doctoral fellowship proposal is entitled “Genetic Modulation of the Association Between NSAIDS and Esophageal Cancer.” Drs. Xifeng Wu and Walter Hittelman are her faculty mentors.

Congratulations!

Michael Swartz, one of our R25 Predoctoral Fellows, successfully defended his dissertation, “Stochastic Search Gene Suggestion: Hierarchical Bayesian Model Selection Meets Gene Mapping,” on February 18, 2004. Michael has accepted a Research Assistant Professor position at Texas A&M where he will be continuing his research in Bioinformatics as it applies to Cancer and Nutrition. Michael will be presenting at the ENAR meeting in March and has organized a topic contributed session at this years’ Joint Statistical Meeting in August. His topic will be “Complex Analysis of Genetic Data.”
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Postdoctoral Fellows (Cont)

Maja Zecevic, Ph.D. - Sara Strom, Ph.D.
Department of Epidemiology
MDS Risk Outcomes and Familial Aggregation of AML

PREDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Aditi Hazra - Xifeng Wu, Ph.D.
Department of Epidemiology
Recurrent Risk in Bladder Cancer

Adam Leventhal - Andrews Waters, Ph.D.
Department of Behavioral Science
Subliminal Processes in Tobacco Dependence

Marie L. Moerkbak - Karen Basen-Engquist, Ph.D.
Department of Behavioral Science
Influence of Doctor-Patient Communication, Illness Perceptions, and Dispositional Coping on Adherence to a Dental Hygiene Regimen Among Head and Neck Cancer Patients

Mala Pande - Marsha Frazier, Ph.D.
Department of Epidemiology
Effect of Smoking and Effect of Metabolic Genetic Polymorphisms on Age of Onset of Hereditary Non-Polyposis Colorectal Cancer

Mahyar Sabripour - Christopher Amos, Ph.D.
Department of Epidemiology
Application of Stellar Photometry to The Analysis of Microarray Images

Michael Scheurer - Melissa Bondy, Ph.D.
Department of Epidemiology
Molecular Markers of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Infection and Epidemiologic Risk Factors for Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia

Nancy Tang - Xifeng Wu, Ph.D.
Department of Epidemiology
Genetic Modulation of the Association Between NSAIDs and Esophageal Cancer

Hui Zhao - Carol Etzel, Ph.D.
Department of Epidemiology
Classification and Regression Tree Analysis of Risk Assessment of Lung Cancer

GRADUTATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS
3 to 6 Month Research Experiences

Uchenna Agbim - Lovell Jones, Ph.D.
Department of Gynecologic Oncology Research
The Effect of an Intensive Nutritional Intervention on Breast Cancer and Physical Activity Among Premenopausal African American Women

Amanda Almazan - Jonathan M. Kurie, M.D.
Department of Thoracic Head & Neck Medical Oncology
A Randomized, Double-blinded Study of the Biological Effects and Tolerability of Celecoxib as a Chemo-preventive Agent in Current and Former Smokers

Ebony Bailey - Jonathan M. Kurie, M.D.
Department of Thoracic Head & Neck Medical Oncology
A Randomized, Double-blinded Study of the Biological Effects and Tolerability of Celecoxib as a Chemo-preventive Agent in Current and Former Smokers

Jonathan Choe - Elise Cook, M.D.
Department of Clinical Cancer Prevention
The Selenium and Vitamin E Cancer Prevention Trial (SELECT) Adherence and Retention Study

Banerjee - Elise Cook, M.D.
Department of Clinical Cancer Prevention
The Selenium and Vitamin E Cancer Prevention Trial Adherence and Retention Study

Maria Chang - Cindy Carmack Taylor, Ph.D.
Department of Behavioral Science
Psychosocial Functioning of Prostate Cancer Patients and Their Spouses

Paul Chukelu - Lovell Jones, Ph.D.
Department of Gynecologic Oncology Research
Feasibility Study of a Unique Personal Health Identifier Number

Bena Ellickalputhenpura - Cindy Carmack Taylor, Ph.D.
Department of Behavioral Science
Health Behavior Practices of Lung Cancer Patients and Their Spouses

Lindsay Hayler - Patricia A. Parker, Ph.D.
Department of Behavioral Science
The Influence of Uncertainty and Communication on Adjustment

Sara Jimenez - J. Jack Lee, Ph.D.
Department of Biostatistics and Applied Math
Statistical Modeling and Sample Size Calculation for Biomarkers in Lung Cancer Prevention Studies
Graduate Research Assistant (Cont)

Charles Minard - Carol J. Etzel, Ph.D.
Department of Epidemiology
Identification of Prognostic Factors for the Risk of Second Tumors of the Head and Neck

Sandi Pruitt - Karen Basen-Engquist, Ph.D.
Department of Behavioral Science
Patient Knowledge and Provider Information About Cervical Dysplasia

Julia Sanders - Cindy Carmack Taylor, Ph.D.
Department of Behavioral Science
Psychometric Analysis of The CARE Scale: Validating Assessment of Spousal Relationships After Cancer

Stacie Scruggs - Karen Basen-Engquist, Ph.D.
Department of Behavioral Science
Social Cognitive Theory and Physical Activity After Endometrial Cancer

Jennifer Solis - Lovell Jones, Ph.D.
Department of Gynecologic Oncology Research
Differences in Plasma Carotenoid Levels After Diagnosis Between U.S. and Foreign-born Hispanic and White Women Breast Cancer Survivors

Kimberly Sorensen - Margaret R. Spitz, M.D.
To Develop a Nutrient Database of Values for Choline and Betaine for Use in Epidemiologic Studies

Cancer Prevention Fellowship Programs

Program Information

Description & Objectives: The Cancer Prevention Education Program at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center prepares scientists to assume roles as research investigators in the field of cancer prevention and is designed to train research investigators from a multiplicity of health science disciplines. Applicants must select a primary mentor from the M.D. Anderson full-time faculty. The mentor must be engaged in cancer prevention research to be eligible to supervise the proposed fellowship work. Applicants must also select a co-mentor from a specialty or discipline different from that of the primary mentor.

This program includes:
- Graduate Research Assistants (GRA) - 3 to 6 month training
- Predoctoral Fellows - up to 3 years training
- Post-doctoral Fellows - up to 2 years training
- Stipend support, tuition, and allowance for travel and research expenses

Eligibility
To be eligible for the Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program GRA students must be currently enrolled in an accredited graduate program or medical school.

Predoctoral fellowship applicants must hold a Master’s degree or equivalent from appropriate health science disciplines.

Post-doctoral fellowship applicants must have earned doctorates in health science disciplines.

Citizenship status:
These fellowships are funded by the National Cancer Institute and require that applicants be U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents (applicants with VISAs are not eligible).

Donor supported postdoctoral positions are available to applicants without regard to citizenship

How to Apply
For further information or to receive a fellowship application, please contact:

Dee Tello, Academic Coordinator, Department of Epidemiology, (713) 745-2495, email address: dtello@mdanderson.org

OR

Robert M. Chamberlain, Ph.D., Ashbel Smith Professor and Deputy Chair of Epidemiology
Director, Cancer Prevention Education & Teaching Program, (713) 792-7756
email address: rchamber@mdanderson.org
Upcoming Conferences

AACR 96th Annual Meeting
April 16-20, 2005, Anaheim, CA
You can register online at www.aacr.org
October 1, 2004 - Advance registration opens
January 7, 2005 - Reduced “Early Bird” Registration rates deadline
Abstract Deadline - The deadline submissions is 11:59p.m. U.S. Eastern Time, Tuesday, November 30, 2004

ASPO 29th Annual Meeting
March 13-15, 2005, San Francisco, CA
Registration online - To avoid delays fax online form to ASPO at (608) 263-4497
Abstract Deadline - October 18, 2004. Online abstract submission is available via the ASPO website at: www.aspo.org
2005 Research Fellowship in Cancer Prevention Research for young scientists at the postdoctoral or clinical fellow level letter of intent due November 4, 2004. Letters can be faxed to Heidi at (608) 263-4497.

Important Dates

October 14, 2004 - Postdoctoral Fellows Fast Track Orientation
9:00am - 3:00pm - FC1.2002

November 1, 2004 - Postdoctoral Association Monthly Event
2:30pm - 3:30pm - Hickey Auditorium

December 6, 2004 - Postdoctoral Association Monthly Event
3:30pm - 3:30pm - Hickey Auditorium

December 16, 2004 - Postdoctoral Fellows Fast Track Orientation
9:00am - 3:00pm - FC1.2002

February 28, 2005 - Faculty Development Postdoctoral Session on Academic Careers