What’s New in the 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 Alumini 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 8/1/18)
- 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 Research, Management & Policy, University of Florida

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)

Ryan Bohlender, Ph.D.
Epidemiology, Dr. Chad Huff
July 16, 2016 - June 30, 2018
*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
*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 2019 submission

Yuyan Han, Ph.D.
Epidemiology, Dr. Jian Gu
June 1, 2016 - May 31, 2018
*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
*Presented 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)

Monica Reyes, Ph.D.
Epidemiology, Dr. Michelle Hildebrandt
June 1, 2016 - May 31, 2018
*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)
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

### 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*

*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)*
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
NCl R25E CPRTP Summer Research Experience
- Cancer Prevention Education – Student Research Experiences (5R25 CA056452, National Cancer Institute)
- Applications accepted annually: December 1st - January 18th

2018 Applicant Statistics
- 247 Applications started
- 78 Pre-reviewed
- 73 Reviewed by faculty
- 25 Awarded

2018 Awardee Diversity
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 32%
- Caucasian/White: 24%
- Hispanic/Latino: 20%
- African American/Black: 24%

R25E Cumulative Trainees by Grant Year n=414

Summer Applicant Statistics 2010-2018
- Applications Started
- Apps to Pre-Review
- Accepted
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 Biehl  
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-McDougall  
Epidemiology

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

Princess Ekpo  
College Student  
Emory University  
Dr. Shane 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 Daniel & Scott Kopetz  
Epidemiology

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

Sravya Guriwredygar  
College Student  
Florida Atlantic University - Hillel Honors College  
Drs. Lorna McNeill & Dalvin Cho  
Health Disparities

Brianna Jacobs  
Graduate Research Asst.  
Case Western Reserve University  
Dr. Karen Braun-Engquist  
Behavioral Science

Hansini Krishna  
Graduate Research Asst.  
Case Western Reserve University  
Dr. Samir "Sam" Khan  
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. Maia 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. Florence McAllister  
Clinical Cancer Prevention

Kevin Ruiz  
College Student  
University of Notre Dame  
Dr. Maher Karam-Nage  
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 Bhattacharyya  
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