

RESEARCH EDUCATION CORE



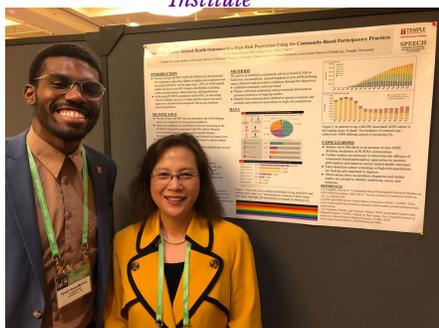
FALL HIGHLIGHTS



Cicely Johnson, Hunter College, explains her research on dietary and cultural practices of minorities as they relate to colorectal cancer screening



Hunter College trainees pose with Sandra San Miguel, PhD, National Cancer Institute



Tyrell Mann-Barnes and his mentor, Dr. Grace Ma, Temple University

Mentors and trainees came together during the fall to participate in various activities supported by the Temple University, Fox Chase Cancer Center and Hunter College (TUFCCC/HC) Partnership.

Scientific Conferences: From September 20th to September 23rd - twelve trainees attended *The 12th American Association for Cancer Research Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved* in San Francisco, California. Three trainees received an AACR Scholar-in-Training award and five trainees received an Early Career Scholarship from the Cancer Disparities Research Network!

Mentor Training: On September 11th, mentors attended a workshop to enhance their mentoring skills through the Temple University Center for the Advancement of Teaching. Similarly, on October 24th, Hunter College hosted a mentoring workshop through the Faculty Affairs department.

REC Webinar Series: The very first Research Education Core webinar series kicked off on Friday, October 25th! The webinar on *Next Generation Computational Infrastructures for Accessible, Standardized, scalable Bioinformatics* was by Konstantinos Krampis, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Hunter College.

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12TH AACR CONFERENCE ON THE SCIENCE OF CANCER HEALTH DISPARITIES IN RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITIES AND THE MEDICALLY UNDESERVED

The 12th American Association for Cancer Research Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved (AACR Cancer Health Disparities) took place from September 20th to September 23rd in San Francisco, CA.

The goal of this conference is to not only advance the understanding of cancer health disparities occurring in the United States, but also to eliminate these disparities through innovative research techniques and coordinated efforts of academia, industry, government, and the community. For four days, attendees learned about ground-breaking research to reduce health disparities across the different communities. Topics included tobacco use and policy, border health, therapeutics outcomes, immunotherapy, and insurance access.

From the TUFCCC/HC Partnership, twelve trainees presented thirteen posters on topics including patient and stakeholder engagement, community-based interventions, neighborhood built environment, and biological pathways contributing to cancer outcomes.

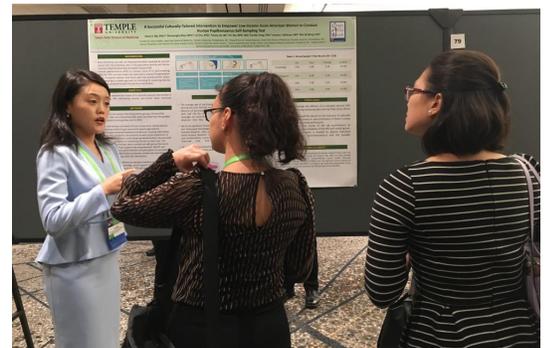
"Attending the AACR ... Cancer Health Disparities Conference has definitely refined my interest and passion for community-engaged research. Hopefully, my career, in addition to the larger consortium of health disparities researchers, will contribute to minimizing health disparities globally and to the improvement of health outcomes for most at-risk communities."
 - Tyrell Mann-Barnes, Temple University



Mentors and Trainees at the 12th Annual AACR Health Disparities Conference



Wenyue Lu, Temple University, discussing patient and stakeholder engagement success



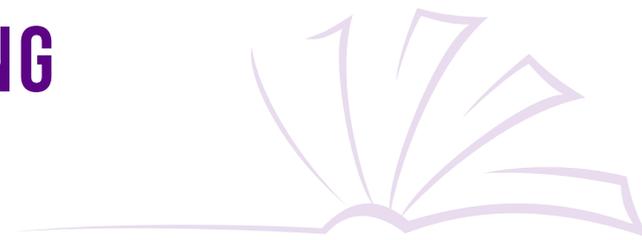
Lin Zhu, PhD, Temple University, presents her work on HPV self-sampling among Asian American women

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CANCER DISPARITIES RESEARCH NETWORK EARLY CAREER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- Aisha Bhimla, PhD(c) - Temple University
- Lin Zhu, PhD - Temple University
- Michelle Naidoo, PhD(c) - Hunter College
- Cicely Johnson, PhD - Hunter College
- Gargi Pal, PhD - Hunter College

The Early Career Scholarship supports PhD candidates and postdoctoral trainees through the Cancer Disparities Research Network (GMaP Region 4), by assisting with expenses related to conferences, workshops, and other career development opportunities

AACR SCHOLAR-IN-TRAINING AWARD RECIPIENTS

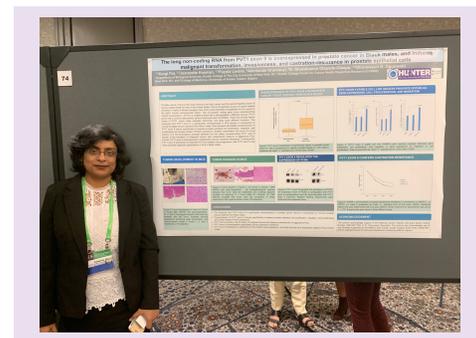


Congratulations to Gargi Pal, PhD, Michelle Naidoo, PhD(c) and Lin Zhu, PhD who were recipients of the AACR Annual Meeting Scholar-in-Training Award!

The Scholar-in-Training Award is a highly competitive award that recognizes and supports young investigators who are attending the *12th AACR Conference on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved* and are presenting their work as a first author.

Gargi Pal, PhD - Postdoctoral Fellow - Hunter College

Gargi presented her work on prostate cancer (PCa) among men of African Ancestry titled “The long noncoding RNA from PVT1 exon 9 is overexpressed in prostate cancer in Black males and induces malignant transformation, invasiveness, and castration-resistance in prostate epithelial cells”. In her study, Gargi evaluated plasmocytoma variant translocation 1 (PVT1) which is located at the 8q24 locus of the human genome and is transcribed into a long non-coding RNA that has been implicated in PCa. Twelve exons of PVT1, which make separate transcripts, and likely have different functions, have been identified. RT-PCR analysis confirms significant upregulation of PVT1 exon 9 in aggressive Prostate cancer cell lines derived from African males. PVT1 exon 9 is also found to be overexpressed in the prostate cancer tissues in comparison to the normal prostate or benign prostatic hyperplasia tissues. To characterize further, PVT1 exon 9 is cloned in plasmid vector and this construct showed important role in cell migration, proliferation, and wound healing in normal prostate cell line RWPE1. PVT1 exon 9 siRNA efficiently inhibits PVT1 exon 4A, 4B, and 9 in prostate cancer cell lines. It can be concluded that PVT1 exon 9 causes dysregulation of biological functions and promotes prostate carcinogenesis



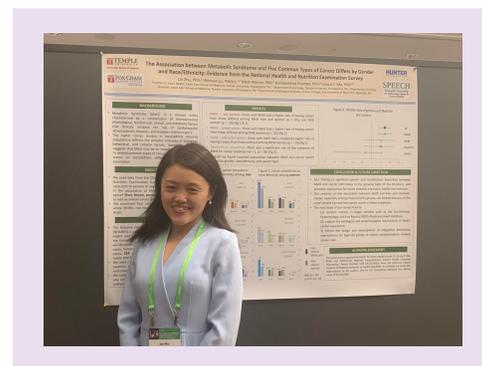
Michelle Naidoo, PhD(c) - Doctoral Candidate - Hunter College

Michelle presented her project titled “Molecular mechanisms of microRNA-1205 in aggressive prostate cancer in men of African Ancestry”. She conducted in vitro and in vivo studies investigating the role of the PVT1-encoded microRNA-1205. She discovered that microRNA-1205 was underexpressed in tissues obtained from males of African Ancestry (moAA), an underrepresented population that is disproportionately effected by prostate cancer. In addition, Michelle’s work indicated that exogenous administration of a synthetic analog of miR-1205 to male NOD/SCID gamma (NSG) mice bearing castration resistant prostate cancer (CRPC) suppressed in vivo CRPC tumor growth. To further characterize the role of microRNA-1205 in prostate cancer she identified and validated Fry-like (FRYL), a protein involved in cellular dendritic branching, as a molecular target of microRNA-1205. She discovered that microRNA-1205 regulation of FRYL may be implicated in neuroendocrine prostate cancer (NEPC), an aggressive form of prostate cancer. She concluded that microRNA-1205 regulation of FRYL may be a critical mechanism in NEPC and continues to investigate this molecular mechanism to further understand its role in aggressive prostate cancer.



Lin Zhu, PhD - Postdoctoral Fellow - Temple University

Lin presented two posters on her current research projects. The first presentation titled “The Association between Metabolic Syndrome and Five Common Types of Cancer Differs by Gender and Race/Ethnicity” is a pilot study funded by the SPEECH U54 partnership. In this study, Lin used data from the 2011-2016 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey to define a case-control sample and examine racial/ethnic and gender disparities in the association of metabolic syndrome and 5 common types of cancer (liver, breast, prostate, colorectal, and stomach). In addition, Lin presented a poster titled “A Successful Culturally-Tailored Intervention to Empower Low-Income Asian American Women to Conduct Human Papillomavirus Self-Sampling Test” which assessed the impact of a culturally-tailored intervention in promoting HPV self-testing among 156 low-income Asian American women.



“I am so happy to receive this award. I believe it is really important to update my knowledge ...[AACR]...is the best platform for that. It will definitely give me an opportunity to interact with other researchers and experts in the same field. I feel that the opportunity to share the work I have done and to meet with leaders in this field will be an excellent platform to establish me and gain new insight” - Gargi Pal, PhD, Hunter College

MENTOR SPOTLIGHT: CAMILLE RAGIN, PHD



The goal of Dr. Camille Ragin's lab is to increase cancer health equity among blacks. Dr. Ragin's research focuses on cancer disparities among the African diaspora and examines socio-cultural, physical and health access-related factors and her lab's main interest centers on whether genetic ancestry influences cancer development and survival.

Dr. Ragin's research indicates that a majority of African American smokers are poor metabolizers for tobacco, suggesting that African Americans are more susceptible to the damaging effects of tobacco than European whites. In addition, her team's research found that at a specific genetic locus, patients with genotype GG (common among European whites) have better survival compared to those with AG or AA genotypes that are common in African Americans.

This incredible work is being applied in the African Caribbean Cancer Consortium (AC3), a research network founded by Dr. Ragin to promote collaborations to study viral, genetic, environmental and lifestyle disparities. AC3 consist of almost 200 research members from across the United States, Caribbean, and Africa!



*Camille Ragin, PhD
Fox Chase Cancer Center
Professor*

For more information on Dr. Ragin's lab visit:
<https://bit.ly/2lYuGqg>

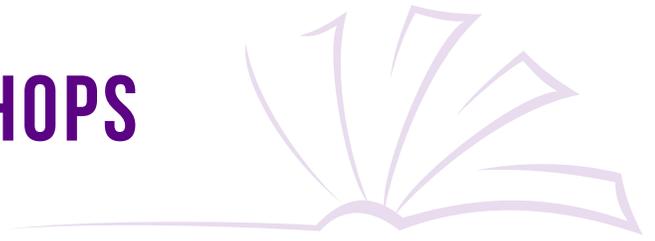
GRACE X. MA, PHD - HISTORY MAKER



The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) recognized Grace X. Ma, PhD as a History Maker in Minority Health and Health Disparities Research! Dr. Ma is the Associate Dean for Health Disparities, Laura H. Carnell Professor and Professor in Clinical Sciences at Lewis Katz School of Medicine (Temple University). Dr. Ma was recognized for her endless efforts in reducing cancer and other health disparities among Asian Americans through community-based participatory research and patient-centered outcomes research focusing on early detection, patient navigation, cancer prevention and control, chronic diseases, and more. In addition, Dr. Ma co-founded the first Asian Community Health Coalition in the northeastern part of the United States and is the founding Director of the Center for Asian Health (CAH) in the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University.

Congratulations Dr. Ma!

MENTOR TRAINING WORKSHOPS



The Research Education Core is dedicated to the improvement of our trainees' academic futures and we believe this starts with supporting our mentors. To reach this goal, we provided two training workshops for the mentors – one was held on the Temple University Health Science's campus and one at Hunter College's campus.

On September 11th, mentors attended a training workshop provided by Temple University's Center for the Advancement of Teaching hosted by Assistant Vice Provost, Stephanie Fiore, PhD. Similarly, on October 24th, Hunter College offered a mentor training workshop through the Faculty Affairs department. This workshop was hosted by the Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs - Jennifer Tuten, PhD.

Both Dr. Fiore and Dr. Tuten started the workshops by asking the participants, *what can a good mentor do?*

After self-reflecting on their own previous experiences as a trainee – U54 mentors were of discussed the importance of modeling professional responsibility, including how to avoid conflicts of interest, and fairly awarding authorship credit. The second topic of discussion focused on demystifying graduate school through teaching and lab expectations. Mentors also learned to encourage their trainees on the effective use of time. Most importantly, mentors discussed how they are a part of their trainee's professional development and future career, because training is not a one size fits all, strategies to assist their trainees with finding additional mentors were also explored.

These events were such a success that a U54 specific mentor training workshop is currently in the works! Stay tuned for mentor workshop announcements coming this spring from both Temple University and Hunter College!



*Stephanie Fiore, PhD
Temple University
Assistant Vice Provost*



*Jennifer Tuten, PhD
Hunter College
Associate Provost*

2020 SUMMER CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

Applications for the 2020 Summer Cancer Research Institute (SCRI) are currently open!

The SCRI Program is an 8-week intensive summer program that takes place on Temple University and Fox Chase Cancer Center campuses. SCRI is supported by the National Cancer Institute U54 and the TUFCCC/HC SPEECH Partnership. Undergraduate and graduate students, currently enrolled at Temple University or Hunter College, and who are interested in pursuing biomedical, clinical and population-based cancer research are welcome to apply.

Participants will benefit from:

- Hands-on research training
- Mentorship from established investigators
- Participation in cancer seminars and skill-building workshops
- Written and oral science communication
- All participants will receive a stipend of \$3,000.

PROGRAM DATES: JUNE 8TH - JULY 31ST

Applications can be completed at:

<http://bit.ly/SCRI2020>

Note: a Google account is necessary to access the application

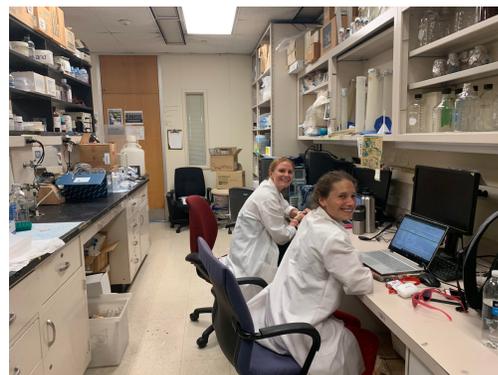
For more information please visit:

<http://www.speechregionalpartnership.org/>

DEADLINE TO APPLY: JANUARY 15TH, 2020



Gaitree Boojraj running an experiment in the lab of Nora Engel, PhD



Melissa Driscoll and Jen Muse are working hard in the lab of Carmen Sapienza, PhD

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH (AACR) - ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 24TH - 29TH, 2020 | SAN DIEGO, CA

Abstract Submission Deadline: December 5th, 2019

For more information please visit:

<https://bit.ly/2kySSiC>

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION (APHA) - ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 24TH - 28TH, 2020 | SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Abstract Submission Opening Date: December 16th, 2019

Abstract Submission Deadline: February 17th - 21st, 2020 (depending on section)

For more information please visit:

<http://apha.confex.com/apha/2020/cfp.cgi>

REC WEBINAR SERIES



On October 25th, Temple University, Fox Chase Cancer Center, and Hunter College trainees and mentors joined the Research Education Core in our webinar series featuring Konstantinos Krampis, PhD.

Dr. Krampis is an Associate Professor in the Biology Department at Hunter College. In addition, Dr. Krampis is the Director of Bioinformatics, Center for Transnational and Basic Research (CTBR), PI of Bioinformatics Core Informatics Infrastructures Laboratory (BCIL) and a faculty member at the Institute for Computational Biomedicine (ICB) at Weill Cornell Medical College.



*Konstantinos Krampis, PhD
Hunter College
Associate Professor*

The series titled, *Next Generation Computational Infrastructures for Accessible, Standardized, scalable Bioinformatics* describes how Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) technology has been fully integrated in nearly every aspect of medical and biological research, allowing for affordable capture of all genomic and transcriptomic features of cellular function with unprecedented scale and detail.

This webinar can be viewed at: <http://bit.ly/2NO2MYe>.



*Members of the Biostatistics and
Bioinformatics Core*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

The next webinar is scheduled for December 5th at 12:00 PM.

Dr. Marilyn Fraser will present on
"Engaging Communities in Research".

To join: <https://zoom.us/j/749472292>
+1 646 558 8656 | Meeting ID: 749 472 292

Research Education Core Leaders:

Carolyn Fang, PhD - Fox Chase Cancer Center
Olorunseun Ogunwobi, MD, PhD - Hunter College

For questions regarding the Research Education Core and any upcoming events,
please contact one of our program coordinators:

Taylor Wood, MPH - taylor.wood@fcc.edu
Cristina Zambrano, BA - Cristina.Zambrano61@myhunter.cuny.edu

SPEECH

**Synergistic Partnership
for Enhancing Equity in
Cancer Health**

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FALL CANCER AWARENESS MONTHS

SEPTEMBER



Prostate
Childhood Cancers
Ovarian
Gynecologic Cancers
Leukemia & Lymphoma

OCTOBER



Breast
National Mammography Day
(October 18th)

NOVEMBER



Lung
Pancreatic
National Family Caregiver Month