

BRENDEN-COLSON CENTER FOR PANCREATIC CARE



The Brenden-Colson Center for Pancreatic Care is a patient-centric research hub for programs that focus on three main areas essential for alleviating suffering from pancreatic diseases: Earlier Detection, Advanced Therapy, and Patient Resiliency

Our Newsletter serves as a way for us to stay connected, share pancreas-related funding opportunities and community events, and provide updates on the successes and progress the Center is making.

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Meet Margaret Haerr



A big congratulations to Margaret Haerr, PhD student in the Program in Biomedical Sciences, for being awarded a Women in Science Professional Development Scholarship!

Margaret earned her B.S. in Biology at UC Santa Barbara. Following graduation, she moved to San Diego where she worked at a biotech company for four years, developing cancer immunotherapies.

Wanting to continue her education on the West coast by obtaining a PhD, she decided to attend OHSU based on its excellent cancer biology department (and the bonus of the beautiful nature of the Pacific Northwest!). Margaret joined Katelyn Byrne's lab and is studying the immunobiology of pancreatic tumors and mechanisms of immunotherapy against PDAC.

After graduate school, Margaret wants to return to the drug discovery and development world!

Fun Fact: Margaret has a golden retriever and they love hiking and adventuring together. She also loves to surf in the summer and ski in the winter!

BCCPC Faculty vs STEMprep Basketball Game

This summer marks the second year OHSU is a host university for the [Distance Learning Center STEMprep Project Training Program](#).

The Distance Learning Center's mission is to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in science, technology, engineering, math and medicine by developing innovative training concepts, implementing comprehensive programs, and fund raising to support programs for these underrepresented minority groups.

This past week, STEMprep students in the BCCPC challenged BCCPC faculty to a basketball game!



Apply for a BCCPC Travel Award

The Brenden-Colson Center for Pancreatic Care will be offering up to \$1200 for 3 trainees each to present their pancreas-related work at one of this fall's pancreas meetings.

To apply, please send a brief email describing your goals or expectations for participation in this conference and attach your submitted abstract with submission confirmation notice to [Loa Nowina-Sapinski](#) by August 11, 2023.

Eligible Conferences:

AACR Pancreatic Cancer

September 27 - 30, 2023, Boston, MA

Abstract deadline is July 13

7th Cancer Cachexia Conference

September 28-30, 2023, Edinburgh, Scotland

Abstract deadline was June 1

APA Annual Meeting

November 15-18, Coronado, CA

Abstract deadline is July 10

Brody Lab Becomes Site Lead for Lustgarten Grant on PARP Inhibition and Pancreatic Cancer

Congratulations to Dr. Jonathan Brody and his laboratory for becoming the scientific lead on a Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Grant totaling \$1.6 million focused on PARP inhibition and pancreatic cancer, including a collaboration and clinical trial at Johns Hopkins.

OHSU TPIAT Team Speaking at the PITA-IXA-CTRMS 2023 Joint Congress

Congratulations Swati Mishra, PhD and the TPIAT team from being selected to speak at the [PITA-IXA-CTRMS 2023 Joint Congress!](#)

The International Pancreas and Islet Transplant Association (IPITA), the International

Xenotransplantation Association (IXA), and the Cell Transplant and Regenerative Medicine Society (CTRMS) are reaffirming their strong partnership as leaders in transplantation through bringing experts and opinion leaders from all over the world to present their latest data and address important needs in clinical and experimental transplant therapy.

Dr. Mishra will be presenting "**Total pancreatectomy with islet auto-transplantation (TPIAT): Improving quality of life for patients with chronic pancreatitis at OHSU.**"

Upcoming Events

Advancing Systems Biology Approaches for Precision Medicine in Complex Diseases

Chi Zhang, PhD, Associate Professor in the Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics at Indiana University School of Medicine will be joining the BCCPC as a guest speaker. The Zhang lab focuses on computational modeling of tumor microenvironments including the level of hypoxia, oxidative stress, acidity, dysregulation of extracellular matrix, and altered immune responses by using large scale omics data. He will be presenting on "**Advancing Systems Biology Approaches for Precision Medicine in Complex Diseases**".



Light breakfast and beverages will be provided!

Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023

Time: 9:00AM-10:00AM

Location: KCRB Auditorium & [WEBEX](#)



Pancreas Research Monthly

Join us this month for the BCCPC Pancreas Research Monthly. Rolf A. Brekken, PhD, Professor in the Department of Surgery & Hamon Center for Therapeutic Oncology Research at University of Texas Southwestern, will be presenting on "**Growth Factor Pathways that Drive Immune Evasion and Metastasis**".

Light breakfast and beverages will be provided!

Date: Friday, July 14, 2023

Time: 9:00AM-10:00AM

Location: KCRB Auditorium & [WEBEX](#)

Modeling Spatial Transcriptomics Data to Uncover Spatially Dependent Relationships

Sha Cao, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Health Data Science at Indiana University School of Medicine will be joining the BCCPC as a guest speaker. Her research revolves around methodological development of omics data modeling. She will be presenting on "**Modeling spatial transcriptomics data to uncover spatially dependent relationships**".



Refreshments will be provided!

Date: Thursday, July 19, 2023

Time: 10:00AM-11:00AM

Location: Rood Pavilion (RPV) Rooms B/C & WEBEX



BCCPC Happy Hour

Come join us for your favorite beverage and a chance to catch up outside of work!

Date: Thursday, July 20, 2023

Time: 4:00PM-5:00PM

Location: Elephants

Register for the PDCM and TEC Joint Annual Investigators Meeting

Drs. Rosie Sears and Jonathan Brody are hosting a joint meeting of two of the NCI's big consortiums: Patient-Derived Models of Cancer (PDMC) and Cancer Tissue Engineering Collective (TEC). Owen McCarty is the Keynote speaker.

Register and submit a poster abstract [HERE](#) by **July 27th!**

Date: August 30-September 1, 2023

Location: OHSU Knight Cancer Center

Questions? Contact mc2center@sagebase.org



Recent BCCPC Publications

The majority of patients with pancreatic cancer experience weight and muscle loss, caused or worsened by either the tumor itself or chemotherapy. Dan Marks, MD, PhD, previously showed that treatment of TCMCB07, antagonist of the type 4 melanocortin receptor, ameliorates cancer-associated cachexia in rats. In their recent publication entitled, "[Effect of melanocortin-4 receptor antagonist TCMCB07 on chemotherapy-](#)

[induced anorexia and weight loss in rats](#)", Zhu, *et al.* evaluated the efficacy of TCMCB07 in alleviating chemotherapy-induced anorexia, weight loss and muscle wasting. They found TCMCB01 treatment alleviated anorexia, weight loss and muscle wasting when treated with cisplatin or 5-FU chemotherapies, in comparison to chemotherapy treatment alone. This preclinical study provides evidence that targeting melanocortin signaling could be a promising anti-cachexia therapy for patients with pancreatic cancer being treated with cisplatin or 5-FU.

Conferences for Your Calendar

[PDCM and TEC Joint Annual Investigators Meeting](#): August 30-September 1, 2023

[AACR Special Conference: Pancreatic Cancer](#): September 27-30, 2023

[Cancer Cachexia Conference](#): September 28-30, 2023

[PITA-IXA-CTRMS 2023 Joint Congress](#): October 26-29, 2023

[American Pancreatic Association Annual Meeting](#): November 15-18, 2023



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