

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 Resilience.

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

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Join "Team OHSU" for PurpleStride 5K!

The Brenden-Colson Center for Pancreatic Care and Knight Cancer Institute are once again co-sponsoring the annual PanCAN PurpleStride Portland fundraiser to end pancreatic cancer.

We invite you to help us rewrite the future of pancreatic cancer by joining TEAM OHSU!

It's the first time in history that 60 PanCAN PurpleStride events will happen in-person on the same day, making this the BIGGEST YEAR YET! This means more awareness and more funds to keep PanCAN's programs running so patients and families don't have to navigate pancreatic cancer alone.

Date: Saturday, April 29, 2023

Time: 9:30AM-12:30PM

Location: Portland International Raceway

Register today for TEAM OHSU - it's FREE!

Even if you are not able to join the walk, every dollar that you donate ensures that the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network can continue working to create better outcomes for pancreatic cancer patients and their families. Pancreatic cancer patients and families are counting on you - PurpleStride is the number-one way we raise funds to end pancreatic cancer.

When you register and raise:

- \$50- receive a PurpleStride T-shirt
- \$1,000-PanCAN PurpleStride Grand Club Membership and an exclusive gift

Questions? Email [Grace McCarthy](mailto:Grace.McCarthy@pancan.org)



Meet Hen Halamish, Ph.D.



Let's give a big welcome to Dr. Hen Halamish! Joining the BCCPC from Israel, Dr. Halamish holds a degree in chemistry and material science and engineering. She continued her education in material science and engineering, earning both a masters and PhD. Dr. Halamish finished her PhD in September 2022 under Professor Alejandro Sosnik at the Israel Institute of Technology. In her PhD, she specialized in polymers for drug encapsulation and targeting. She designed targeted nanocarriers to treat pediatric solid tumors, in addition to developing 3D models to better mimic the tumor microenvironment for successful pre-clinical studies.

Dr. Halamish joins the BCCPC as Senior Research Associate in Dr. Jonathan Brody's lab to continue in the cancer field and to deepen her biological knowledge of cancer cell research. In the Brody lab, she is involved in many projects, with the overarching aim to find how to improve treatments for pancreatic cancer. One of which ways she is investigating is through understanding the relationship between the pro-tumorigenic proteins KRAS, HuR and YAP1.

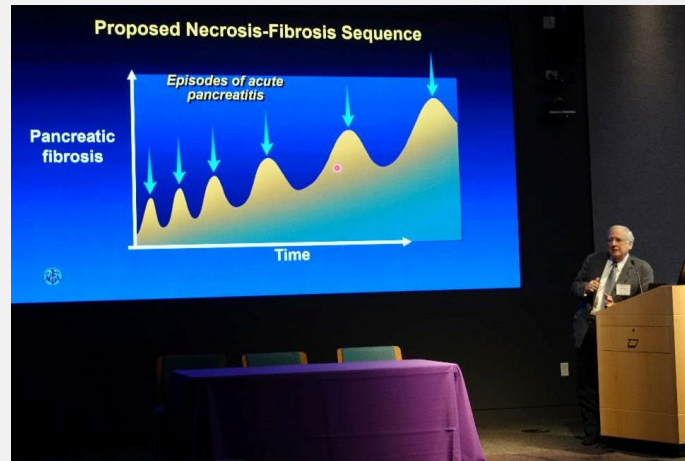
Dr. Halamish is a talented and accomplished scientist, marked by her eight publications and being selected for the KLA Excellence Scholarship and Schein Award. Dr. Halamish's goal in her career is to find a better way to treat cancer to help those afflicted by it. We are so happy to have her join us in the BCCPC!

Fun Fact: "Bungee jumping is the scariest thing I did so far (Except for having kids and being afraid at any moment) 😊"

Successful CME Conference on Benign Pancreas Disease

On March 18th, the BCCPC held its inaugural pancreatitis CME conference, "Benign Pancreas Disease: Updates in Treatments and Research". We were approved to offer 6.75 hours of CME credit to eligible participants.

Organized by BCCPC Co-Director Brett Sheppard, MD, and GI faculty member Saad Jazrawi, MD, this conference



covered all aspects of this very complex disease and all its variations. We were gratified to welcome 40 attendee – physicians, nurses, dieticians, and others from OHSU and the community – and three industry exhibitors were also there providing updates on their newest offerings.

Dr. Jazrawi presented a step-by-step plan for how to diagnose unprovoked pancreatitis, and Dr. Sheppard discussed the challenges of trying to do early detection of pancreatic cancer (pancreatitis being looked at as a possible precursor). We were honored to host Keynote Speaker Dr. Steve Pandol from Cedars-Sinai Health Center to talk about the current research behind potential new treatments and the national consortiums that are working on this problem.

Other talks included

- A comparison of different imaging techniques for both acute and chronic pancreatitis by Bryan Foster, MD (Diagnostic Radiology)
- A review of modern resuscitation strategies in pancreatitis (Heather Hoops, MD, Trauma / Critical Care)
- Options for pain management in pancreatitis (Kim M. Mauer, MD, Anesthesiology)
- Latest evidence on how to approach nutrition and exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (Robert Martindale, MD, PhD, General Surgery)
- Vascular techniques for Imaging and intervention (John Kaufman, MD, Interventional Radiology)
- The latest findings on hereditary and pediatric pancreatitis (Henry Lin, MD, Pediatric Gastroenterology)
- The pros and cons of TPIAT as a solution to chronic pancreatitis (Kaveh Sharzei, MD, MS Gastroenterology)

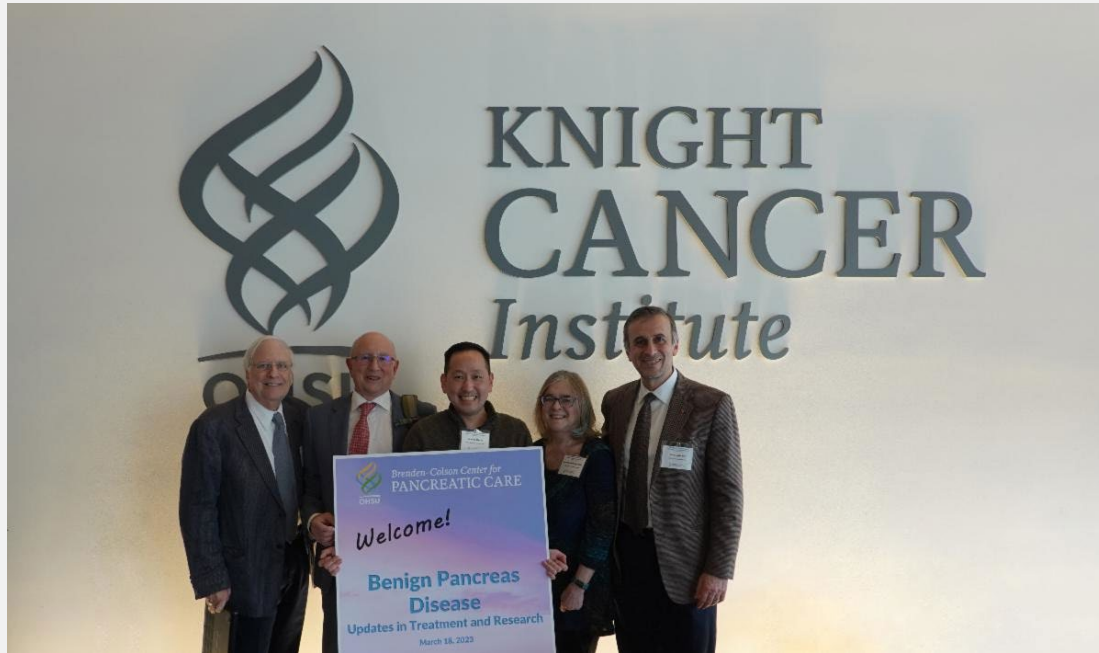
Plus there were two fascinating panel discussions of recent cases involving the treatment of difficult pseudocysts, fistulas, stone and strictures (cases presented by Emily Jonica, MD and Jessica Yu, MD, both OHSU Gastroenterology faculty).

There are still unanswered questions remaining about pancreatitis– Why does alcohol use affect different patients differently? When will we have any “pancreatitis” directed medication? What role will upcoming research on cannabis byproducts play in pain management? How can we diagnose chronic pancreatitis earlier before the organ is irreparably damaged?

One thing made abundantly clear during this conference was how much our patients benefit from the teamwork of our providers from all these different specialties. This

interdisciplinary approach makes innovative treatments possible and solves problems as they arise.

SAVE THE DATE – Our next CME conference on pancreatic cancer is scheduled for November 10th. November is pancreatic cancer awareness month, with World Pancreatic Cancer Day happening on November 16th!



Anticipated Funding Opportunities for Pancreatic Cancer Research Program

The Department of Defense released anticipated FY23 funding opportunities for Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP), including the Pancreatic Cancer Research Program. This program supports research of exceptional scientific merit and innovation with high impact that focuses on pancreatic cancer.

Find out more information at this at the [CDMRP website!](#)

Upcoming Events

Pancreas Research Monthly

Join us this month for the BCCPC Pancreas Research Series. Eric Collisson, MD, from University of California San Francisco will be presenting on "Targeting Ferroaddiction in Pancreatic Cancer".

Light breakfast and beverages will be provided!

Date: Friday, April 7, 2023

Time: 9:00AM-10:00AM

Location: KCRB Auditorium & [WEBEX](#)



BCCPC at AACR Annual Meeting

On April 14th, researchers in the BCCPC will be headed to Orlando, Florida for the AACR Annual Meeting!

The **BCCPC will be hosting a happy hour** on Monday, April 17th, at 6PM. Be on the lookout for an RSVP!

For more information, email [Grace McCarthy](#).

Be on the lookout for fellow OHSU Researchers at the meeting:

Rosalie Sears- Chairing, Introducing and Closing a session on "Gene Regulation and Transcription Factors in Cancer"

Jonathan Brody- Talk: "So you want to join a hot band called Clinical Impact" and Poster: "A community led approach to addressing disparities in pancreatic cancer care for Native Americans in Oregon"

Lisa Coussens- Talk: "Identifying immune vulnerabilities in solid tumors: Leukocyte communication networks regulate neoplastic progression and response to therapy"

Teresa Zimmers- Talk: "Modeling cancer cachexia: From flies to rodents to organoids" and "Cancer cachexia: Out of intense complexities, intense simplicities emerge"

Katelyn Byrne- Talk: "Agonistic anti-CD40 converts regulatory T cells in to Type 1 effector cells within the tumor microenvironment"

Brandon Hayes-Lattin- Talk: "Helping patients with hematologic malignancies manage issues of fertility preservation and pregnancy"

Young Hwan Chang- Poster: "3D multiplexed tissue imaging reconstruction and optimized region-of-interest (ROI) selection through deep learning model"

Camille Collier- Poster: "T cell antitumor function requires potassium transport"

Brittany Counts- Poster: "Gemcitabine nab-paclitaxel combination with DMAPT in PDAC cachexia"

Jenny Eng- Poster: "Robust spatial biomarker discovery through multi-platform multiplex image analysis of breast cancer clinical cohorts"

Jennifer Finan- Poster: "Investigating pancreatic cancer-derived extracellular vesicle signaling in the tumor microenvironment"

Omnia Gaafer- Poster: "PDK4 is dispensable for PDAC cachexia"

Sephora Jean- Poster: "Changes in adipose tissue microenvironment occurs early in murine models of pancreatic cancer cachexia"

Jackie L. Phipps- Poster: "A novel, immune-competent, Myc-dependent model of rapid metastatic recurrence of pancreatic cancer after resection"

Recent Publications

Important findings from [Ranish Patel, M.D.](#) addressed the knowledge gaps regarding differences for pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor treatment patterns and outcomes between low-volume and high-volume institutions. In their study, they found that patients treated at high-volume institutions had improved survival for both locoregional and metastatic disease, as compared to patients treated at low-volume centers. For patients with metastatic disease, they believe the differences could be attributed to a multitude of factors, including a higher likelihood of both primary and distant site surgery, a relative lower threshold to offer surgeries that improve survival, and overall familiarity in the management of this malignancy. Ultimately, the team recommended referral of all patients with pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors to high-volume centers. Check out their paper entitled, "[Care at high-volume centers is associated with improved outcomes for patients with pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors: A population-level analysis](#)".

Conferences for Your Calendar

[AACR Annual Meeting](#): April 14-19, 2023

[Pancreas Club Meeting](#): May 5-7, 2023

[The Stroma in Pancreatic Cancer Think Tank 2023](#): May 24, 2023

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

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

BCCPC CME Conference on Pancreatic Cancer: November 10, 2023

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



For more BCCPC news, [join our mailing list!](#)