

Holden Highlights 4/25/22



NEWS

Farewell



Tina Devery will be resigning as Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center Associate Director for Administration on May 12th, 2022 to pursue opportunities outside the University. Tina has been a vital contributor to the cancer center since 2004 and was instrumental in the many successes we have had over this period of time across our research, clinical, educational and community outreach missions. Please join me in thanking Tina for her immense contributions, and in wishing her well in her new endeavors. Additional information on plans for Cancer Center administration following her departure will be shared in the next few weeks.

Henry to take on expanded responsibilities as Deputy Director

Michael Henry, PhD has served as Deputy Director for Research since 2011, largely focusing on developing and supporting the research (basic, translational, clinical and population) mission of the HCCC. We are pleased to announce Dr. Henry has agreed to take on additional responsibilities across the spectrum of activities of the HCCC to support Dr. Weiner's efforts during the transition to the next director of the HCCC. His new title of Deputy Director reflects his expanded leadership role.



New Breast Center is now open!



The new breast center at UI Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center aims to make the cancer journey easier and less stressful by providing access to the state's most advanced cancer services in one convenient location.

Experimental Therapeutics



The Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center Experimental Therapeutics (ET) program is co-led by Drs. Bryan Allen and Aliasger Salem. The aims of the ET program are to 1) identify potential new cancer targets and discover novel therapeutics approaches, 2) evaluate promising new therapeutic leads and 3) translate innovative and promising agents, combined modalities, and imaging approaches to early phase clinical trials. Recent new members of the ET program include Drs. Sabarish Ayyappan, Kristina Thiel, Adam Mailloux, Gerik Sutamtewagul, Michelle Howard, James Byrne and Margaret Byrne. The ET program regularly holds translation research meetings, clinical

collaboration meetings and focused research area meetings. Oberley seed grants from the ET program have been recently awarded to Drs. Monga, Roman, Gordan, Zimmerman, Byrne, Furqan, Meng and Yang. Recent clinical highlights include Dr. Monga's phase IB/II trial on intratumoral talimogene laherparepvec injection with concurrent preoperative radiation in patients with locally advanced soft-tissue sarcoma of the trunk and extremities and Dr. Milhem's study on overcoming PD-1 blockade resistance with CpG-A Toll-Like receptor 9 agonist Vidutolimod in patients with metastatic melanoma. Complementary basic science studies by Drs. Simons-Burnett and Weiner have continued to elucidate the mechanism of action of Vidutolimod.

Contact [Dr. Allen](#) or [Dr. Salem](#) for additional information.



Empowering Nurses to Improve Health Care

Stephanie Gilbertson-White, PhD, APRN is featured in this article from [The Commonwealth Fund](#). Dr. Gilbertson-White is an associate professor and PhD program director. She has created a mobile app that helps people with cancer track and manage their symptoms and also connect with other patients. Congratulations!

Pandemic led to fewer adolescents vaccinated against HPV, CDC says

This article in [The Washington Post](#) recognizes work done by PhD student Grace Ryan. Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center members Natoshia Askelson, PhD, MPH, Mary Charlton, PhD, and Aaron Scherer, PhD are co-authors. Congratulations!



Cancer Consortium 2021 Annual Report

The mission of the Iowa Cancer Consortium is to advance cancer prevention and control in Iowa through advocacy, equity, and collaboration.

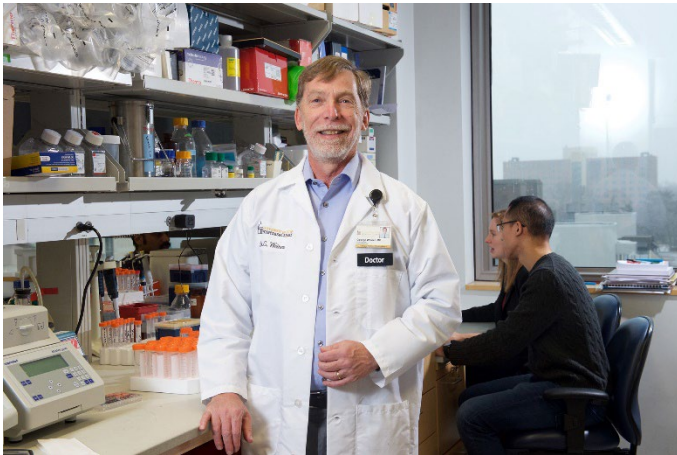
They have put together a report of activities from 2021. [Read here.](#)

UI Healthcare 2021 Annual Report

UI Health Care's 2021 annual report provides information on how we educate and train the next generation of health care professionals, provide life-changing primary and specialty care and expertise to patients and families, and advance biomedical science through research. [Read here.](#)



Discussing the future of cancer treatment



George Weiner, MD addresses recent advances in cancer therapies and shares the discoveries he finds most encouraging. [Read more.](#)

Graduate Student Spotlight

The Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center is proud to have graduate students in labs in colleges across the University of Iowa. Get to know one of these students:

Keith Garcia

Cancer Biology Program

Munir Tanas lab, Pathology



Keith Garcia is a Laredo, Texas native, and did his undergraduate studies at The University of Texas in Austin where he earned a BS in Microbiology in 2013. He joined the Cancer Biology PhD program at University of Iowa in fall 2017 and anticipates a summer 2022 graduation. Keith is in the lab of HCCC member (Program Affiliation: Cancer Genes and Pathways), Munir Tanas, MD, Department of Pathology. In the Tanas lab, his thesis project is focused on understanding how the transcriptional co-activators, TAZ and YAP, are dysregulated in sarcomas.

After completion of his PhD, Keith plans to continue his training as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford University in the laboratory of Ashby Morrison, PhD to study the link between metabolic signaling and chromatin regulation. His future goal is to develop his own independent research program to better understand how metabolic signaling impacts chromatin biology and downstream gene expression programs in normal and diseased cells.

In his free time, Keith enjoys film photography, taking walks with his wife and dog, and exploring different brew methods for coffee.

Hematology/Medical Oncology Fellowship Spotlight



Adithya Chennamadhavuni, MBBS, 3rd year fellow

Adithya (Aadi) Chennamadhavuni attended medical school at Osmania Medical College in Hyderabad, India from 2005 - 2011. He is currently in a Hematology Oncology Fellowship at Iowa. Aadi's father was a plant geneticist which sparked his interest in biology. While his dad worked with plants, Aadi's interest gravitated towards people.

Aadi matched into internal medicine residency program at Gundersen Health in Wisconsin. Time spent in the cancer center, tumor boards, and electives in gastro and lung oncology at Wayne State University validated his chosen career path. Aadi first heard about the Hematology Oncology Fellowship opportunity at Iowa. His program director, Dr. Lori Rosenstein, had been a faculty member at Iowa before moving to Wisconsin. He joined as a Clinical Associate in the Department of Hematology and Oncology at the University of Iowa in 2017.

His experience as an attending on the hematology-oncology service was challenging as well as rewarding. The supportive team at UIOWA helped Aadi undergo a major transition from the role of a resident to a team leader and he gained new skills by managing a team of nurse practitioners as he dealt with the many complications related to malignancy and chemotherapy. As a new challenge, he joined the bone marrow transplant team in 2018, further expanding his proficiency with transplant patients, their complications, and management. Later he joined Hematology Oncology fellowship in 2019.

Outside of work, Aadi enjoys photography and spending time with his 3-year-old son and his wife.

Postdoctoral Trainee Spotlight



Emma Hornick

Postdoctoral Research Scholar
Gail Bishop lab

Emma Hornick earned her master's degree as well as her PhD at the University of Iowa with a research focus on cellular immune responses to respiratory infections. She is currently in the Bishop lab where she delves into the intersection between the immune system and cancer. There is a personal motivator for Emma in pursuing a cancer research career – she lost her two beloved grandfathers to cancer. Basic science research yields the critical advances that give us more quality time with our loved ones, and there are few greater motivators for her. Emma is always looking for opportunities to learn. She will read pertinent literature or ask a colleague to teach her a method they have perfected. A poignant statement, “There are exceptional people at all levels of education and experience, and everyone has something they can teach you. I strive to remember that and engage accordingly,” shows just how passionate she is about her education.

In her free time, Emma is an avid reader and loves to spend time with her family who are her absolute joy.



Family Keeps Cancer Patient's Memory Alive by Supporting Iowa Research

In the decade since Tad Agnew's death, an annual Davenport fundraiser has brought together his friends—and more than \$350,000 to support the UI Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center.

[Read more.](#)



After Cancer Fight, UI Senior Gives Back with Dance Marathon

Only days after completing his first semester at Iowa, Joe Briddle saw his doctor about lumps and pain he'd noticed in his groin. The former high school wrestler and football player underwent an ultrasound, several X-rays, and a biopsy in Iowa City. On Christmas Day in 2018, he was diagnosed with stage 3 testicular cancer, which had spread to his abdomen and lungs. Briddle underwent localized surgery a couple days later and began three rounds of chemotherapy in mid-January.

[Read more.](#)

CLINICAL TRIALS

[A Study to See if Memantine Protects the Brain During Radiation Therapy Treatment for a Brain Tumor](#)

PI: Dickens, David

Phase 3

[A Study of HMPL-306 in Advanced Solid Tumors With IDH Mutations](#)

PI: Monga, Varun

Phase 1

[Surufatinib in Combination With Tislelizumab in Subjects With Advanced Solid Tumors](#)

PI: Chandrasekharan, Chandrikha

Phase 1b/2

[A Study of TransCon TLR7/8 Agonist With or Without Pembrolizumab in Patients With Advanced or Metastatic Solid Tumors](#)

PI: Laux, Douglas

Phase 1/2

[A Study of XmAb®22841 Monotherapy & in Combination w/ Pembrolizumab in Subjects w/ Selected Advanced Solid Tumors \(DUET-4\)](#)

PI: Zakharia, Yousef

Phase 1

[JAB-3312 Activity in Adult Patients With Advanced Solid Tumors](#)

PI: Furqan, Muhammad

Phase 1/2a

Trial Spotlight

[Living Well: A Web Based Program for Ovarian Cancer Survivors](#)

PI: Lutgendorf, Susan

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

INTERNAL

Vere D. Wenger Travel Award (VIRTUAL INCLUDED): Ongoing

[Learn More](#)

Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Awards

Deadline Noon, Monday, May 9, 2022

[Learn More/Application](#)

EXTERNAL

American Cancer Society

Discovery Boost - Innovative Exploratory Research

deadline 10/15/22

[Learn More](#)

American Cancer Society

Research Scholar Grants

deadline 10/15/22

[Learn More](#)

American Cancer Society

Mission Boost Grants

deadline 10/15/22

[Learn More](#)

American Cancer Society

Postdoctoral Fellowships

deadline 10/15/22

[Learn More](#)

American Cancer Society

Clinician Scientist Development Grant

[Learn More](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Webinar - Climate Change and Cancer: Opportunities for implementation science in cancer prevention and control

Friday, April 29, 2022| 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

[Register](#)

LGBTQ Inclusivity Training

Wednesday, May 11, 2022| 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Midwest Tumor Microenvironment Meeting (registration open until May 5)

May 23-25, 2022| University of Kansas Medical Center

[Register now!](#)

HCCC SCIENTIFIC RETREAT & Oberley/SfRBM Symposium

Wednesday, June 15th - Coralville Hyatt Convention Center

[Register](#)

Training on Health Equity, 5 CME hours (FREE)

Together, Equitable, Accessible, Meaningful (Team) Training - This training aims to improve health equity by supporting organizational changes at the system level. The training will help implement quality improvements to advance equitable, accessible and patient-centered cancer care through improved patient-provider communication, cultural sensitivity, shared decision-making and attention to health literacy. No-cost online course with 5 CME hours (FREE) [Click here.](#)

OPEN POSITIONS

Please share with potential candidates:

- [22001815](#) Program Manager (ongoing)
- [22002406](#) Research Assistant, Specimen Procurement (requisition end date 4/29/22)
- [22002474](#) Laboratory Technician II (requisition end date 4/19/22)
- [22001084](#) Staff Nurse
- [22001219](#) Nurse Clinician (80%)
- [22001174](#) Nurse Clinician (100%)

RECENT NEW HIRES

- Amy Mattes, Health Records Specialist 4/18/22