

Holden Highlights 5/9/22



NEWS



Oncology Nursing Month

As part of Oncology Nursing Month, Sam, an English Creme/Poodle mix, visited the nurses in the cancer clinic. Nurses Elaine, Jerri, and Beatriz got in on some cuddle time!



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Supplemental Award



Crystal Garcia-Auguste



Mary Charlton



Elizabeth Chrischilles

Elizabeth Chrischilles, professor and head of epidemiology in the UI College of Public Health, has been awarded a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Supplemental Award from the Research Development Office within the UI Office of the Vice President for Research. Investigators collaborating on the award include Crystal Garcia-Auguste, a PhD candidate in epidemiology, and Mary Charlton, professor of epidemiology and director of the Iowa Cancer Registry.

Faculty Scholar Awards



Congratulations to Mary Charlton, PhD and Michael Schnieders, DSc for receiving the Iowa Mid-Career Faculty Scholar Award!

Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center and other cancer center supporters to make good on misappropriated funds

You may have heard in the press about an internal audit that revealed approximately \$17,000, mostly in gift cards intended for support of cancer patients, was misappropriated. Although the HCCC was not managing these funds, and we cannot go back in time to prevent this from

happening, we will be providing alternative resources of support so the programs dependent on these funds can continue. Other supporters have also stepped up to help. As reported by the press, appropriate legal efforts to recover these funds are ongoing. We are also double checking to assure the systems are in place to assure funds are managed properly. Thanks to all who stepped up to assist and to assure our patients continue to receive the support they need despite this most unfortunate situation.



Dear Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center Colleagues:

As you may know, Tina Devery will be leaving her position as Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center Associate Director for Administration for a job outside the University of Iowa next week. We have opened the search for a new Associate Director for Administration. The job description can be found [here](#).

Please share this opportunity with colleagues as we seek to fill this critical position.

Community Outreach and Engagement (COE)

The purpose of Community Outreach and Engagement (COE) is to make sure that the efforts of the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center (HCCC) are relevant to the state of Iowa. It focuses on engaging both HCCC and the people of Iowa to improve HCCC cancer research. This two-way focus helps researchers meet the needs of people in Iowa. As HCCC researchers and Iowa's diverse populations and communities communicate and collaborate, the result will be equitable access to health promotion, cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and quality of life. Giving community members a voice in research spaces helps to build trust and gives researchers a unique opportunity to clarify and improve their work.

COE at HCCC has three aims:

1. Assess needs across Iowa by understanding cancer burden and risk factors and how this relates to traits like race, gender, health insurance, and geographic location.
2. Address cancer burden in Iowa through strategic research across the HCCC, particularly addressing underserved populations.
3. Engage the community and promote dissemination and implementation of evidence-based interventions for cancer prevention and screening, cancer control and therapy, and care delivery in our catchment area and beyond.

Current COE initiatives include:

1. A seed grant program encourages cancer research that partners researchers with communities.
2. A Cancer Center Support Grant supplement project is building relationships between HCCC, the Iowa Cancer Consortium, and Black/African American communities in Iowa to address cancer disparities.
3. COE is helping Holden's Community Advisory Board (CAB) to engage with HCCC researchers. The CAB includes 20 cancer survivors, caregivers, professionals, patient advocates, and other cancer stakeholders who live or work in Iowa. The CAB enjoys learning from researchers and providing feedback on projects and letters of support for research proposals.

Key Terms in Community Outreach and Engagement:

Bi-directional Communication: Two or more people take part in both giving and receiving information. The process allows individuals with different backgrounds and experiences to learn from one another.

Catchment Area: A self-defined geographic area. Holden's catchment area is the state of Iowa.

The COE team is eager to provide guidance, resources, and services to assist cancer center researchers. If you have questions or suggestions as we define and develop tools and resources to support researchers in their COE endeavors, please reach out to [Megan Schmidt](#).

REMINDER!

LGBT Inclusivity Training is this Wednesday!

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

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)



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:

Samuel Rodman III

**Biomedical Science Graduate Program (Free Radical and Radiation Biology)
Mitchell Coleman lab; Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation**



As a Naperville, Illinois native, [Samuel Rodman III](#)'s undergraduate studies brought him to the University of Iowa where he graduated in 2012 with a BS in Biology (Genetics & Biotechnology track) and an English minor. He joined the Free Radical and Radiation Biology PhD program at University of Iowa in fall 2017 and anticipates a summer 2022 graduation. Sam is in the lab of HCCC member (Program Affiliation: Free Radical Metabolism and Imaging), [Mitchell Coleman, PhD](#), Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation. In the [Coleman lab](#), Sam's thesis project highlights the critical role peroxide generation and adipose tissue signaling responses in the development of fibrosis in the months to years following radiotherapy.

After completion of his PhD, Sam plans to do a postdoctoral fellowship in industry and hopefully remain a bench scientist. Sam enjoys being at the bench designing and doing experiments – his goal would be to work on cutting edge therapeutics and pharmaceuticals to improve the lives of cancer patients.

Although there was a time that Sam considered music as a potential career path (and even participated in the steel band!), he identified that several years as a percussionist improved his scientific mind and made him comfortable with public performance. Sam is motivated to use these skills in his research to improve the lives of patients living in cancer remission with debilitating effects of radiation therapy.

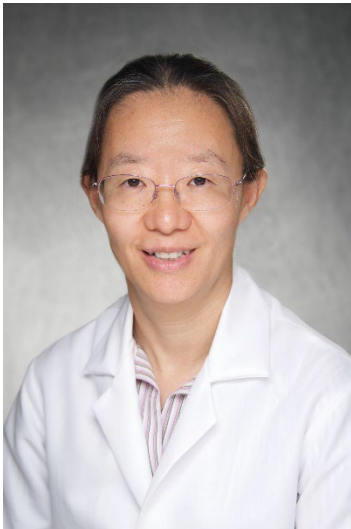
In his free time, Sam looks forward to a monthly book club and provides a few recommendations of recent reads: *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler, and *Transcendent Kingdom* by Yaa Gyasi.

Investigator Spotlight

Shujie Yang, PhD

Assistant Professor of Pathology

Program affiliation: Experimental Therapeutics



Shujie Yang's research focuses on endometrial cancer. The long-term goal is to develop evidence-based therapeutic interventions to improve survival for endometrial cancer patients as well as other hormone-driven cancer patients. Currently, her studies focus on three topics: 1 - PR downregulation mechanisms, 2 - target endometrial cancer with hormone therapy or target therapy, and 3 - oncogenic function of SETDB1. She is seeking fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of cancer cells and wants to apply that knowledge to help cancer patients.

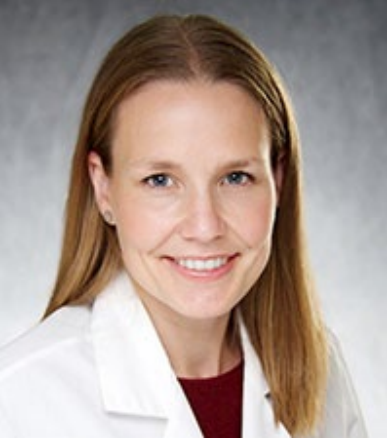
Shujie enjoys being an active member of Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center. With the help of many cancer center colleagues, her research has been greatly advanced and broadened. She appreciates the wonderful help from several core facilities - genome core, flow cytometry, and central microscopy. Over the years, Shujie has been fortunate to receive many grants from the cancer center, the ACS, High Throughput Screening, PACT, and ET Oberley. Her career development also thrives from cancer center seminars, retreats, and pitch-your-aims activities.

Shujie's research benefits greatly from collaboration. Holden has many wonderful investigators who have helped to shape her current research projects. In the future, she hopes to collaborate with more laboratories to further understand and combat the disease together.

There are many talented undergraduate students and two wonderful graduate students, Kiarash Salari and Sarina Murray, who are in the Cancer Biology Graduate Program. Shujie appreciates the trust they have in her as a junior faculty to guide them during their career. She is enjoying watching them and helping them grow as scientists. They learn together and help each other.

Shujie is originally from China and earned her Master's Degree in Biochemistry. After moving to the US with her husband, she pursued her PhD training at the University of New Mexico. She then started postdoc training at the University of Iowa in 2009 and established her current lab in 2019. She has one daughter who is a junior in West High school. She loves to participate in church activities and enjoys being with her large church family. In her free time, Shujie enjoys meditation, reading, exercise, and family vacations.

Hematology/Medical Oncology Fellowship Spotlight



Gudbjorg Jonsdottir, MD, PhD, 3rd year fellow (Chief)

Gudbjorg Jonsdottir attended medical school at the University of Iceland. It was there that she learned that many of her role models had completed training at UIHC, leading her to an internal medicine residency at UIHC. During residency, Gudbjorg experienced a truly collegial and supportive environment combined with high-quality education and research and knew that UIHC was where she wanted to continue on as a Hematology/Oncology fellow.

As a fellow she has been able to grow both as a clinician and as a physician scientist. The highlight of it all is the amazing people she has been able to work with while taking care of patients. She feels that it's been a privilege to be able to conduct cancer research throughout her training with hopes to help move the field forward for patients and their families. Gudbjorg knows cancer on a personal level as her mother passed away from glioblastoma so she feels the importance of developing new therapeutic options to give patients hope for the future.

Currently, Gudbjorg's research focus has been on homologous recombination repair in pancreatic cancer under the guidance of her mentor and surgical oncologist Carlos Chan, MD, PhD where they have been collaborating with cancer centers throughout the US through the ORIEN network. They are looking forward to presenting their newest work at the ASCO annual meeting in Chicago in June. In her free time Gudbjorg enjoys running and spending time doing outdoor activities with her husband and their two children.



Recording available: Cancer Clinical Trials 101

The recording of Cancer Clinical Trials 101 that was held via Zoom on 4/21/22 is now available to listen to [here](#).

Come celebrate ODO's life

When: **May 26, 2022**
3:30 – 6:00 PM
Spiritual Reflections @ 4:00 PM
Refreshments from Maggie's Farm Pizza

Where: **Red Barn at the Celebration Farm**
4696 Robin Woods Lane NE
Iowa City, IA 42250

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation. Our family will match any donation to [Americares.org Ukraine](https://www.americares.org)*.
Tom and Sue volunteered with Americares onsite in Croatia during the Bosnian war.
*<https://www.americares.org/emergency-program/conflict-in-ukraine/>

A few months ago we lost a beloved colleague, Dr. Thomas O'Doriso. A celebration of his life will take place on May 26. Please join O'Do's family, friends and colleagues on May 26 for celebration of a life well lived.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation. The O'Doriso family will match any donation to [Americares.org Ukraine](https://www.americares.org).

Tom and Sue volunteered with Americares onsite in Croatia during the Bosnian war.



Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA)

On Saturday, April 23 there were over 70 Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) cancer patients and their families in attendance at the Iowa Football spring practice. They were given a behind the scenes tour of Kinnick Stadium.

CLINICAL TRIALS

A Study to Assess DF6002 (BMS-986415) Alone and in Combination With Nivolumab in Participants With Locally Advanced or Metastatic Solid Tumors

PI: Milhem, Mohammed
Phase 1/2

A Study to Evaluate AB308 in Combination With AB122 in Participants With Advanced Malignancies

PI: Zakharia, Yousef
Phase 1/1b

The Oral Microbiome in OSCC

PI: Banas, Jeffrey

Study of Sacituzumab Govitecan-hziy (IMMU-132) Versus Treatment of Physician's Choice in Participants With Metastatic or Locally Advanced Unresectable Urothelial Cancer (TROPiCS-04)

PI: Garje, Rohan
Phase 3

FT819 in Subjects With B-cell Malignancies

PI: Farooq, Umar
Phase 1

Intraperitoneal Paclitaxel-loaded TPM for Treatment of Peritoneal Carcinomatosis

PI: Chan, Carlos
Phase 1

Belzutifan/MK-6482 for the Treatment of Advanced Pheochromocytoma/Paraganglioma (PPGL) or Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumor (pNET) (MK-6482-015)

PI: Chandrasekharan, Chandrikha
Phase 2

An Umbrella Study to Determine the Safety and Efficacy of Various Monotherapy or Combination Therapies in Neoadjuvant Urothelial Carcinoma (Optimus)

PI: Zakharia, Yousef
Phase 2

A Study to Test Bone Marrow and Blood in Children With Leukemia That Has Come Back After Treatment or Is Difficult to Treat

PI: Dickens, David
Observational

Trial Spotlight

Chemo-Immunotherapy Followed by Durvalumab and Ceralasertib in Treatment Naïve Patients With Extensive Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer

PI: Furqan, Muhammad

PUBLICATIONS

FEATURED PUBLICATION

[Establishment of Novel Neuroendocrine Carcinoma Patient-Derived Xenograft Models for Receptor Peptide-Targeted Therapy](#)

- Publication: Cancers (Basel)
- Authors: Tran CG, Borbon LC, Mudd JL, Abusada E, AghaAmiri S, Ghosh SC, Vargas SH, Li G, Beyer GV, McDonough M, Li R, Chan CHF, Walsh SA, Wadas TJ, O'Dorisio T, O'Dorisio MS, Govindan R, Cliften PF, Azhdarinia A, Bellizzi AM, Fields RC, Howe JR, Ear PH
- Research Program: Cancer Genes and Pathways, Experimental Therapeutics, and Free Radical Metabolism and Imaging

Gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine neoplasms (GEP NENs) are a family of rare cancers with rising incidence in recent years. GEP NEN tumor cells are difficult to propagate, and few cellular and patient-derived xenograft (PDX) models are available for testing new therapies and studying the heterogeneous nature of these cancers. Here, we describe the establishment and characterization of two novel NEC cellular and PDX models (NEC913 and NEC1452). NEC913 PDX tumors express somatostatin receptor 2 (SSTR2), whereas NEC1452 PDX tumors are SSTR2-negative. As a proof-of-concept study, we demonstrated how these PDX models can be used for peptide imaging experiments targeting SSTR2 using fluorescently-labelled octreotide. The NEC913 and NEC1452 PDX lines represent valuable new tools for accelerating the process of drug discovery for GEP NENs.

WEEKLY PUBLICATIONS

[An international analysis evaluating frontline bendamustine with rituximab in extranodal marginal zone lymphoma](#)

- Publication: Blood Adv
- Authors: Alderuccio JP, Arcaini L, Watkins MP, Beaven AW, Shouse G, Epperla N, Spina M, Stefanovic A, Sandoval-Sus J, Torka P, Alpert AB, Olszewski AJ, Kim SH, Hess B, Gaballa S, Ayyappan S, Castillo JJ, Argnani L, Voorhees TJ, Saba R, Chowdhury SM, Vargas F, Reis IM, Kwon D, Alexander JS, Zhao W, Edwards D, Martin P, Cencini E, Kamdar M, Link BK, Logothetis CN, Herrera AF, Friedberg JW, Kahl BS, Luminari S, Zinzani PL, Lossos IS
- Research Program: Experimental Therapeutics

[Geographic differences in community oncology provider and practice location characteristics in the central United States](#)

- Publication: J Rural Health
- Authors: Ellis SD, Thompson JA, Boyd SS, Roberts AW, Charlton M, Brooks JV, Birken SA, Wulff-Burchfield E, Amponsah J, Petersen S, Kinney AY, Ellerbeck E
- Research Program: Cancer Epidemiology and Population Science

Noise-Based Image Harmonization Significantly Increases Repeatability and Reproducibility of Radiomics Features in PET Images: A Phantom Study

- Publication: Tomography
- Authors: Keller H, Shek T, Driscoll B, Xu Y, Nghiem B, Nehmeh S, Grkovski M, Schmidlein CR, Budzevich M, Balagurunathan Y, Sunderland JJ, Beichel RR, Uribe C, Lee TY, Li F, Jaffray DA, Yeung I
- Research Program: Free Radical Metabolism and Imaging

Inhibitor of DNA binding 2 (ID2) regulates the expression of developmental genes and tumorigenesis in ewing sarcoma

- Publication: Oncogene
- Authors: Koppenhafer SL, Goss KL, Voigt E, Croushore E, Terry WW, Ostergaard J, Gordon PM, Gordon DJ
- Research Program: Experimental Therapeutics

ACR-ACNM-ASTRO-SNMHI Practice Parameter for Lutetium-177 (Lu-177) DOTATATE Therapy

- Publication: Am J Clin Oncol
- Authors: Love C, Desai NB, Abraham T, Banks KP, Bodei L, Boike T, Brown RKJ, Bushnell DL, DeBlanche LE, Dominello MM, Francis T, Grady EC, Hobbs RF, Hope TA, Kempf JS, Pryma DA, Rule W, Savir-Baruch B, Sethi I, Subramaniam RM, Xiao Y, Schechter NR
- Research Program: Cancer Genes and Pathways

Psychological predictors of delayed active treatment following active surveillance for low-risk prostate cancer: The Patient REported outcomes for Prostate cARE prospective cohort study

- Publication: BJUI Compass
- Authors: Taylor KL, Luta G, Zotou V, Lobo T, Hoffman RM, Davis KM, Potosky AL, Li T, Aaronson D, Van Den Eeden SK
- Research Program: Cancer Epidemiology and Population Science

Disruption of dNTPs Homeostasis by Ribonucleotide Reductase Hyperactivation Overcomes AML Differentiation Blockade

- Publication: Blood
 - Authors: Wang H, He X, Zhang L, Dong H, Huang F, Xian J, Li M, Chen W, Lu X, Pathak KV, Huang W, Li Z, Zhang L, Nguyen LXT, Yang L, Feng L, Gordon D, Zhang J, Pirrotte P, Chen CW, Salhotra A, Kuo YH, Horne DA, Marcucci G, Sykes DB, Tiziani S, Jin H, Wang X, Li L
 - Research Program: Experimental Therapeutics
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GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

INTERNAL

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

[Learn More](#)

EXTERNAL

DeGregorio Foundation

Esophageal Cancer - translational or involving a clinical trial

Notify [Scott Hansen](#) of interest by 6/1/22

American Cancer Society

Request for Applications (RFA) - ACS Research Priority Area: Screening
application deadline 8/1/22

[Learn More](#)

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

HPV Vaccination Policy Webinar (Pt 1 of 2)

The Importance of Pursuing the “P” in PSE
Tuesday May 10, 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](#)

Big Ten CRC Grand Rounds

Friday, May 13, 2022| 1:00 p.m. CT

[Join Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 978 9702 5209

Passcode: 309235NIH Seminar: How Does Diversity Impact Science?

Tuesday May 17, 2022| 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

[Register](#)

Registration is now open for an online seminar with a panel discussion that will explore evidence showing that diverse, inclusive teams enhance creativity, innovation, and productivity in science. The seminar is open to all NIH staff and the broader scientific community. [Check out our blog](#) for more details.

Pitch Your Aims

Wednesday May 18, 2022| 5:00-6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Please reply to [Tami Thompson](#) and she will provide Zoom info.

HCCC Grand Rounds

Friday, May 20, 2022| 12:00 p.m.

ICTS Conference Room (C44A GH) or

[JOIN MEETING](#)

Learn how to create the most welcoming and inclusive space possible for your patients, families, and visitors. This training is intended to improve the delivery of culturally sensitive and responsive health care to increasingly diverse patient populations. The HCCC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force encourages you to attend this session and receive take-aways to create an environment of inclusion where individual differences are respected and access to healthcare is improved for all populations.

HCCC SCIENTIFIC RETREAT & Oberley/SfRBM Symposium

Wednesday, June 15th - Coralville Hyatt Convention Center

[Register](#)

HPV Vaccination Policy Webinar (Pt 2 of 2)

Opportunities for Big “P” Policy Change in Increasing HPV Vaccine Uptake

Wednesday June 15, 2022| 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

[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](#)

Center for Immunology and Immune-based Diseases Retreat

Thursday, August 18th - Coralville Hyatt Regency Hotel

Please [RSVP](#) by or before Friday, June 24; registration is FREE for Center for Immunology members.

Not a member? [Join today.](#)

OPEN POSITIONS

Please share with potential candidates:

- 21004764 [Clinic Services Specialist](#)
- 22001363 [Financial Analyst](#)
- 22001701 [Clinical Health Care Research Associate](#)
- 22001815 [Program Manager](#)
- 22002319 [Clinical Trials Research Assistant](#)
- 22002457 [Clinical Research Associate](#)
- 22002768 [Revenue Cycle Representative](#) (requisition end date 5/10/22)
- 22002882 [Research Support Specialist](#) (requisition end date 5/13/22)
- 22002895 [Clinical Trials Activation Specialist](#) (requisition end date 5/13/22)
- 22001084 [Staff Nurse](#)
- 22001219 [Nurse Clinician \(80%\)](#)
- 22001174 [Nurse Clinician \(100%\)](#)

RECENT NEW HIRES

- Bonnie Thomann – Health Records Analyst
- Kunj Saxena – Clerk III
- Olivia Hubbard – Clinic Services Specialist
- Jacob Ketelaar – Regulatory Coordinator