

University of Chicago Cancer Research Center



MEMBER NEWS AND UPDATES

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UCCRC News: ASA Election

The UCCRC would like to congratulate **Theodore Karrison**, PhD, Associate Professor of Health Studies and Director of the Biostatistics Core Facility, for his election as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, for "exemplary collaborative research in a wide variety of important biomedical research areas, innovative statistical methodology research addressing practical problems, mentoring in the development of biostatisticians, and leadership in the discipline of clinical trials."

Each year, ASA members nominate the best of their peers to become Fellows. This nomination recognizes members of established reputation who have made outstanding contributions to an aspect of statistical work. Dr. Karrison will be honored at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Washington, DC this August.

UCCRC News: Opening Celebration

This June, the UCCRC will celebrate the opening of the Gwen and Jules Knapp Center for Biomedical Discovery. This state-of-the-art facility will house innovative translational research programs in diabetes, children's health, genomics, cancer, and various other biomedical specialties and will include several shared research facilities.

UCCRC News: CRF Grant

The Cancer Research Foundation (CRF) has generously provided the UCCRC with an initial grant of \$3 million to catalyze a multidisciplinary systems biology and genomics approach to study therapy-related acute myeloid leukemia (t-AML). The grant will support an interdisciplinary team representing basic, translational, and clinical science with a common interest in the mechanisms of cancer development and genetic susceptibilities. Long-time supporters of the University of Chicago, the CRF is dedicated to helping find cures for cancer by funding young investigators and innovative laboratory and clinical cancer research projects.

Upcoming Seminars

► **UCCRC Breast Cancer Seminar Series**
Tuesday, June 9, 2009, 4:30PM - 5:30PM
924 E. 57th street, BSLC Room 115

Topic: Insights from Genome Wide Association Studies of Breast and Prostate Cancer

Presenter: Christopher Haiman, PhD
Assistant Professor, Keck School of Medicine, University of California

UCCRC News: AACI Newsletter

The June 2009 **AACI Newsletter** features UCCRC members **Olufunmilayo Olodade**, MBBS, FACP, and **Ezra Cohen**, MD. Dr. Olopade is recognized for her efforts coordinating a conference addressing breast cancer disparities in Chicago. Dr. Cohen is featured for his work on a study showing that combining eight ounces of grapefruit juice with the drug rapamycin can increase drug levels, allowing lower doses of the drug to be given; a combination which can be effective in treating various types of cancer.

UCCRC News: ASCO

Richard Schilsky, MD, was honored on Sunday, May 31st, for his work as President of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (**ASCO**) from 2008-2009. Dr. Schilsky also serves as Chair of Cancer and Leukemia Group B, presiding over a national research network that conducts clinical trials in cancer treatment, biology, prevention and health outcomes.

A reception was held in Orlando, Florida, and was sponsored by the Cancer Research Center, the Section of Hematology/Oncology (Medicine), and the Section of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at the University of Chicago.

Questions, comments, or suggestions? Please contact: Paul Butera, PhD, at pbutera@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu or (773)702-4636, or Martine Lamotte, at mlamotte@bsd.uchicago.edu or (773)702-2806.

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UCCRC News: Funding Opportunities Update

We currently have over 120 Funding Opportunities posted on the UCCRC web site, and continue to add to this list as we are made aware of new opportunities. If you become aware of an opportunity that may be of interest to your colleagues, please forward it to us for posting. Funding and award opportunities for cancer research with agency deadlines in June include: National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Defense (DOD) Prostate Cancer Research Program, Susan G. Komen, and the Department of Defense (DOD) Breast Cancer Research Program. For more information, please visit our website at: http://funding.uccrc.org/funding_opportunity.

Community Outreach Update

► The first Annual Nutrition Knowledge Bowl will be aired in segments every Saturday in June at 5PM on Channel 21. The Nutrition Knowledge Bowl will be aired on the show *Shaping Young Minds* followed by a series of interviews about the competition. The event took place in December 2008, and was hosted by the UCCRC Community Engagement Centering on Solutions (CECOS) program, led by Rick Kittles, PhD. CECOS promotes engagement with Chicago's Southside community to increase local awareness of advances in cancer research and communicate the benefits of participation in cancer clinical trials and other UCCRC research studies. CECOS also provides information about important cancer-related issues and treatment options.

Shared Research Facilities Update

► **Flow Cytometry Facility:** In February of 2009, the Facility upgraded its Becton Dickinson FACSria cell sorter to the latest iteration, the FACSria II. The major benefits of this upgrade to end-users include:

- **More Stable Fluidics:** The FACSria II's fluidics system was completely redesigned leading to a more stable stream break-off, and significantly higher purity for long sorts.
- **New nozzle system with more sizes:** The new nozzle system significantly reduces setup time. Also, BD has increased its nozzle size offerings for the FACSria to now include 70um, 85um, 100um and 30um tips, allowing a wider range of cell sizes to be sorted.
- **Less Chance of Contamination:** Since the fluidics system has been simplified, the potential for contamination of sorted cells has been decreased significantly. In fact, the entire fluidics lines are now cleaned with ethanol every night bringing the contamination incidence down to nearly zero.

The Flow Cytometry Facility's main location is in the Kovler Building, Room 037. Please contact Ryan Duggan, Technical Director (rduggan@bsd.uchicago.edu) with questions regarding the FACSria upgrade or any of the Core Facility's services.

► **Frank W. Fitch Monoclonal Antibody Facility:** In addition to the generation of novel monoclonal antibodies, the Frank W. Fitch Monoclonal Antibody Facility offers a range of antibody and tissue culture services including purification, conjugation, and hybridoma culture and expansion. Facility personnel would like to highlight that the facility maintains an "Antibody/Hybridoma Bank" that contains an ever-increasing collection of commonly-used purified antibodies for purchase by investigators at very nominal cost. Also available are frozen stocks and spent supernatants.

Please visit the web site <http://fitchantibodies.bsd.uchicago.edu> to see the full list of offerings and prices. The Facility also gladly accepts donations of hybridoma lines which would increase the range of antibodies being offered. Contact Carol McShan, Technical Director, for further information (cmcshan@bsd.uchicago.edu).