

THE
University of Vermont
C A N C E R C E N T E R

The eALERT is an internal newsletter sent semi-monthly.
Please send submissions for the eALERT to [Sarah Keblin](#) by 4 PM Wednesday for
submission in the current issue.

Thursday, June 11, 2015

ACS IRG Funding Awarded to Stumpff and Anker

UVM Cancer Center at Chittenden County Relay for Life

Join Kick-off for Men's Health and Cancer Conference: June 26

MMM Program Meeting: June 29

PRC: Recognition for Long-standing Service

Cancer Biology Course Offered by Biochemistry

Publications and Announcements

Funding Opportunities- NEW LISTINGS THIS WEEK

Ongoing Events

Event Spotlight

First Round of ACS IRG Funding
Awarded to Jason Stumpff, PhD and
Chris Anker, MD

[Men's Health and Cancer Conference](#)

An Educational Event for the General Public

Students encouraged to attend.

Welcome from 8:30-8:45--members encouraged to come!!

Sullivan Classroom
(MedEd 200)
8 AM to 12 PM

Events Calendar

June 2015

Men's Health Awareness Month

12 [AGTC OPEN HOUSE](#), 9-3:30, HSRF.

19-20 [ACS Relay for Life](#); opening ceremony at 6 PM (UVM Cancer Center staff/faculty to participate!); Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex, VT.

26 [Men's Health and Cancer Conference presented by the UVM Cancer Center](#); Medical Education Center, UVM College of Medicine; 8-12.

29 **Molecular Mechanisms of Malignancy Research Program Meeting**; featuring Matt Kinsey, MD, and Jos van der Velden, PhD: *Investigation of the Pathophysiologic Associations of GSTP1 in Emphysema and Lung Cancer*; HSRF 200, 4-5:30 PM.

The University of Vermont (UVM) Cancer Center has announced the first funded project through its American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant (IRG), awarded to the UVM Cancer Center earlier this year. Jason Stumpff, PhD, Assistant Professor of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, and Chris Anker, MD, Assistant Professor of Radiation Oncology, were competitively awarded funding from the IRG to pursue their interdisciplinary project, titled "Investigating Kif18A as a therapeutic target for colorectal cancer." The proposed investigation aims to build on research indicating that Kif18A, a non-essential mitotic regulator, may be a potential therapeutic target for colorectal cancer, and may inhibit cancer cell growth. The future aim would be a long-term translational study utilizing non-essential mitotic regulators as therapeutics to radio-sensitize cancer cells. The UVM Cancer Center congratulates Drs. Stumpff and Anker on their award!

A second round of applications for IRG funding, intended for junior investigators (within six years of first independent academic appointment) and recognizing partnerships between either a laboratory or behavioral scientist and a physician investigator, has been announced with a deadline of July 20 for submissions. To learn more, [click here](#).



Chris Anker, MD, and Jason Stumpff, PhD

Join UVM Cancer Center Colleagues and Patients at Relay for Life

July 2015
UV Safety Month

[18 Komen Race for the Cure VT; Manchester, VT.](#)

September 2015
Ovarian, Leukemia and Lymphoma, Childhood and Prostate, and Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month

12 Sugarbush Polo Club match to benefit the UVM Cancer Center; more details to come!

14 SAVE THE DATE: J. Walter Juckett Distinguished Lecture, featuring nobel prize winning scientist Phil Sharp, PhD, Professor at the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT.

October 2015
Breast Cancer Awareness Month

2 SAVE THE DATE: 18th Annual Women's Health and Breast Cancer Conference.

20 Special UVM Cancer Center Grand Rounds; featuring Richard L. Schilsky, M.D., FACP, FASCO, Chief Medical Officer American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

The 2015 Chittenden County Relay for Life, hosted by the American Cancer Society, will take place on Friday, June 19 at the fairgrounds in Essex. There will be a team from the UVM Cancer Center and Medical Center participating in the event, and the UVM Cancer Center will have a table there to highlight programs and research.

The opening ceremony will begin at 6 PM and will include Gary Stein as well as Jim Wallace (and his bag pipe!). Also, to be included in the ceremony.....our Cancer Center! Patients and their caregivers are looking for UVM Cancer Center faculty and staff at this event, so with that in mind, the Relay for Life Leadership team would like to recognize the staff of the UVM Cancer Center--inclusive of all faculty, staff, researchers, and members.

If you are interested in participating in this recognition, please congregate by the stage just before 6 PM for the opening ceremony. You will be directed to the front of the stage, and at the conclusion of the ceremony, to line up to lead the survivor/caregiver lap. There will be UVM Cancer Center shirts (while supplies last) for participants!

If you are interested in joining a Relay team, please contact [Nicole Messier](#), team captain.

See you at Relay! For more information about the event [click here](#).

UVM Cancer Center Members Invited to Join in Welcome for Men's Health and Cancer Conference

University of Vermont
CANCER CENTER
PRESENTS
Men's Health + Cancer
2015 CONFERENCE
Friday, June 26, 2015
8:00 am – 12:00 pm
SULLIVAN CLASSROOM
University of Vermont Medical Education Pavilion
A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
Please join us for a half-day event focused on education about MEN'S HEALTH AND CANCER. Sessions will include information about nutrition and cancer prevention, screening, treatment, survivorship, and more.
Pre-registration is available until June 19th. Visit www.VermontCancer.org or call (802) 656-4414.
Facebook: [facebook.com/UVMCancerCenter](https://www.facebook.com/UVMCancerCenter) | Pinterest: [pinterest.com/UVMCancerCenter](https://www.pinterest.com/UVMCancerCenter) | Twitter: [@UVMCancerCenter](https://twitter.com/UVMCancerCenter)

UVM Cancer Center staff and faculty are encouraged to join in the public welcome for the upcoming Men's Health

and Cancer Conference, from about 8:30- 8:45AM, Friday, June 26. Please join the public in kicking off what we hope will be an annual event. All Cancer Center members and staff are also welcome to attend this public education event and are strongly encouraged to refer patients.

This half-day event, hosted by the UVM Cancer Center and the Division of Urology, is on **Friday, June 26, 2015** and is free and open to the public. For more information, or to register, [click here](#).

MMM Research Program Meeting Featuring Matt Kinsey, MD and Jos van der Velden, PhD

The UVM Cancer Center's Molecular Mechanisms of Malignancy (MMM) research program will host a meeting on **Monday, June 29th from 4-5:30 PM in HSRF 200**. A presentation by UVM Cancer Center members Matt Kinsey, MD and Jos van der Velden, PhD, titled "Investigation of the Pathophysiologic Associations of GSTP1 in Emphysema and Lung Cancer," will be featured.

Additionally, the meeting is meant to facilitate discussions about and support for new research ideas, funding opportunities as well as mentoring and resources. All UVM Cancer Center members are encouraged to attend.

For more information, please contact program leaders [Marc Greenblatt, MD and Janet Stein, PhD](#).

PRC: A Record of Long-standing Service

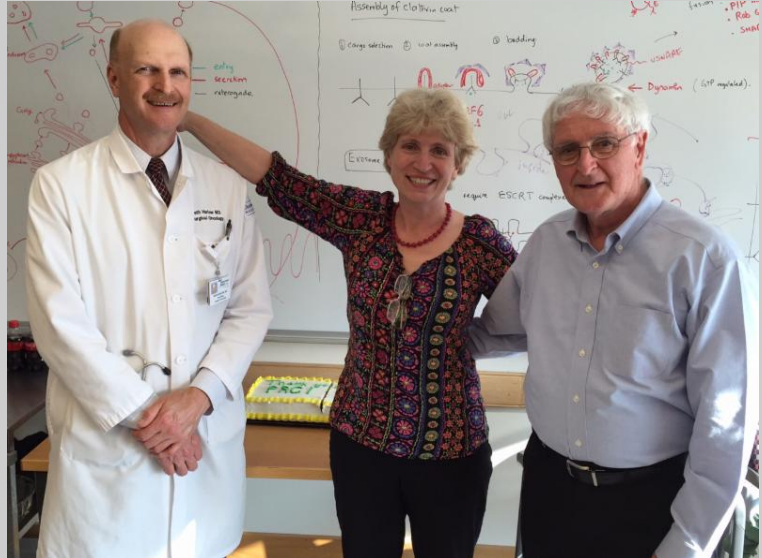
The newly titled Protocol Review and Monitoring Committee (PRMC), formerly known as the Protocol Review Committee (PRC), was established by the UVM Cancer Center in 1994 to meet National Cancer Institute guidelines. The group is charged with the initial and ongoing scientific evaluation of all cancer clinical protocols and amendments proposed at UVM and the UVM Medical Center to ensure high-quality scientific objectives and study design. Members volunteer time to read through new cancer protocols and then convene after-hours for a monthly meeting to jointly review and vote on proposals.

The UVM Cancer Center would like to recognize four members who have served on the PRMC for over 10 years each and have retired from the committee:

- **Seth Harlow, MD**, a breast cancer surgeon at the UVM Medical Center, started with the PRMC (then called the PRC) in September 1994, six months after the first PRC meeting at UVM. His expertise in working with breast cancer patients has been highly valued in reviewing cancer treatment protocols.
- **Jack McCormack, PhD**, is a pharmacologist at UVM College of Medicine. His service on the PRMC began in July, 1995, and his expertise in the pharmacokinetics of various drug therapies has proven valuable in assessing the proper dosing escalation schedules and biochemical interactions of novel therapies for cancer patients.
- **Kim Luebbers, SHS, RN, BSN, OCN**, is Assistant Dean for Clinical Research and Director of the Office of Clinical Trials Research at the University of Vermont. She became a member of the PRMC in May 2002, and in her role reviewed every clinical cancer protocol to ensure that studies were feasible, given local facilities, staffing and protocol requirements.
- **Richard Zubarik, MD**, is a gastroenterologist at the UVM Medical Center. He became a member of the PRMC in February 2002 and his expertise in patient care has been valuable in reviewing protocols that focused on gastrointestinal cancers, both treatment and observational studies.

Please join the UVM Cancer Center in thanking these valued faculty for their contributions to advancing cancer research here at the University of Vermont Cancer Center.

To learn more about the PRMC, [click here](#).



PRMC Retirees Seth Harlow and Jack McCormack
with Claire Verschraegen

Cancer Biology Course Offered this Fall

The Department of Biochemistry will be offering a cancer biology course this fall titled "Cancer Biology: Determinants of Disease Progression." Lectures are built on the theme of the cancer continuum, from the onset of cell transformation, to the highly metastatic tumor cell. Topics include oncogenes, tumor suppressors, DNA damage and repair, angiogenesis, metastasis, cancer immunology and cancer genetics. Students will have the opportunity to present papers on specific cancer types (breast, prostate, thyroid, leukemia) or related to mechanisms, intervention strategies and more.

The class will run this fall on Thursdays from 4-6:30 PM. For more information about the course, please contact course directors [Janet Stein, PhD](#) and [Jane Lian, PhD](#).

UVM Cancer Center In the NEWS

Marie Wood, MD was interviewed by Channel 3/WCAX News' Bridget Caswell for a story regarding prognosis for patients with familial risk of breast cancer. [Click here](#) to see the segment.

Mark Plante, MD appeared on UVM/WCAX's *Across the Fence* to discuss prostate cancer awareness with reporter Judy Simpson. [Click here](#) to watch the interview.

Recent research by **Brian Sprague, PhD** and colleagues,

on breast density and cancer risk, was featured in national news, including nytimes.com and TIME.com.

Publications and Announcements

Please send announcements and publication notices to [Sarah Keblin](#) for inclusion in the eALERT and other promotional material

Announcements:

Marie Wood, MD has been elected to the board of trustees for the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology Foundation.

David Krag, MD has received an award from Spectrum Health Medical Group for a project titled, "Marrow-Derived Antibody Library for Treatment of Neuroblastoma."

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Publications:

[Tumor oncogene \(KRAS\) status and risk of venous thrombosis in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer.](#)

Ades S, Kumar S, Alam M, Goodwin A, Weckstein D, Dugan M, **Ashikaga T, Evans M, Verschraegen C, Holmes CE**. J Thromb Haemost. 2015 Jun; 13(6):998-1003. doi: 10.1111/jth.12910. Epub 2015 Apr 23. PMID: 25809746.

[C-ing the Genome: A Compendium of Chromosome Conformation Capture Methods to Study Higher-Order Chromatin Organization.](#)

Barutcu AR, Fritz AJ, **Zaidi SK**, vanWijnen AJ, **Lian JB, Stein JL**, Nickerson JA, Imbalzano AN, **Stein GS**. J Cell Physiol. 2015 Jun 8. doi: 10.1002/jcp.25062. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26059817.

[Skeletal muscle ultrastructure and function in statin-tolerant individuals.](#)

Rengo JL, Callahan DM, Savage PD, Ades PA, **Toth MJ**. Muscle Nerve. 2015 Jun 8. doi: 10.1002/mus.24722. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26059690.

[Mechanisms and Consequences of Double-strand DNA Break Formation in Chromatin.](#)

Cannan WJ, **Pederson DS**. J Cell Physiol. 2015 Jun 3. doi: 10.1002/jcp.25048. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26040249.

[Non-coding RNAs: Epigenetic regulators of bone development and homeostasis.](#) Hassan MQ, Tye CE, **Stein GS, Lian JB**. Bone. 2015 May 31. pii: S8756-3282(15)00207-0. doi: 10.1016/j.bone.2015.05.026. [Epub ahead of print] Review. PMID: 26039869.

[Regulators of ovarian preantral follicle development.](#) **McGee EA**, Raj RS. Semin Reprod Med. 2015 May; 33(3):179-84. doi: 10.1055/s-0035-1552584. Epub 2015 Jun 2. PMID: 26036899.

[Epigenetic pathways regulating bone homeostasis.](#) **Lian JB**. Bone. 2015 May 30. pii: S8756-3282(15)00217-3. doi: 10.1016/j.bone.2015.05.036. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26036171.

[p53 checkpoint ablation exacerbates the phenotype of Hinfp dependent histone H4 deficiency.](#) **Ghule PN**, Xie RL, Colby JL, Jones SN, **Lian JB**, van Wijnen AJ, **Stein JL, Stein GS**. Cell Cycle. 2015 Jun 1:0. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26030398.

[Cardiorespiratory fitness in survivors of cervical, endometrial, and ovarian cancers: The Cooper Center Longitudinal Study.](#) Peel AB, Barlow CE, Leonard D, DeFina LF, Jones LW, **Lakoski SG**. Gynecol Oncol. 2015 May 28. pii: S0090-8258(15)30009-3. doi: 10.1016/j.ygyno.2015.05.027. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 26026734.

[A Phase I Trial of DFMO Targeting Polyamine Addiction in Patients with Relapsed/Refractory Neuroblastoma.](#) Saulnier Sholler GL, Gerner EW, Bergendahl G, MacArthur RB, VanderWerff A, **Ashikaga T, Bond JP**, Ferguson W, Roberts W, Wada RK, Eslin D, Kravaka JM, Kaplan J, Mitchell D, Parikh NS, Neville K, Sender L, Higgins T, Kawakita M, Hiramatsu K, Moriya SS, Bachmann AS. PLoS One. 2015 May 27; 10(5):e0127246. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0127246. eCollection 2015. PMID: 26018967.

[IgG4-Related Neuromyopathy Associated With Recurrent Pleural Effusion.](#) Waheed W, Nickerson J, **Ambaye AB**, Babi MA, Tandan R. J Clin Neuromuscul Dis. 2015 Jun; 16(4):210-9. doi: 10.1097/CND.000000000000066. PMID: 25996967.

[Association of Protein Phosphatase PPM1G With Alcohol Use Disorder and Brain Activity During Behavioral Control in a Genome-Wide Methylation Analysis.](#) Ruggeri B, Nymberg C, Vuoksima E, Lourdasamy A, Wong CP, Carvalho FM, Jia T, Cattrell A, Macare C, Banaschewski T,

Barker GJ, Bokde AL, Bromberg U, Büchel C, Conrod PJ, Fauth-Bühler M, Flor H, Frouin V, Gallinat J, Garavan H, **Gowland P**, Heinz A, Ittermann B, Martinot JL, Nees F, Pausova Z, Paus T, Rietschel M, Robbins T, Smolka MN, Spanagel R, Bakalkin G, Mill J, Sommer WH, Rose RJ, Yan J, Aliev F, Dick D, Kaprio J, Desrivières S, Schumann G; IMAGEN Consortium. Am J Psychiatry. 2015 Jun 1; 172(6):543-52. doi: 10.1176/appi.ajp.2014.14030382. Epub 2015 May 18. PMID: 25982659.

[Unifying Screening Processes Within the PROSPR Consortium: A Conceptual Model for Breast, Cervical, and Colorectal Cancer Screening.](#) Beaber EF, Kim JJ, Schapira MM, Tosteson AN, Zauber AG, Geiger AM, Kamineni A, **Weaver DL**, Tiro JA; Population-based Research Optimizing Screening through Personalized Regimens consortium. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2015 May 7; 107(6). pii: djv120. doi: 10.1093/jnci/djv120. Print 2015 Jun. PMID: 25957378 [PubMed - in process].

[Freshly thawed and continuously cultured human bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stromal cells comparably ameliorate allergic airways inflammation in immunocompetent mice.](#) Cruz FF, Borg ZD, Goodwin M, Sokocevic D, Wagner D, McKenna DH, Rocco PR, **Weiss DJ**. Stem Cells Transl Med. 2015 Jun; 4(6):615-24. doi: 10.5966/sctm.2014-0268. Epub 2015 Apr 29. PMID: 25925837.

[One versus Two Breast Density Measures to Predict 5- and 10-Year Breast Cancer Risk.](#) Kerlikowske K, Gard CC, **Sprague BL**, Tice JA, Miglioretti DL; Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2015 Jun; 24(6):889-97. doi: 10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-15-0035. Epub 2015 Mar 30. PMID: 25824444.

[The contribution of mammography screening to breast cancer incidence trends in the United States: an updated age-period-cohort model.](#) Gangnon RE, **Sprague BL**, Stout NK, Alagoz O, Weedon-Fekjær H, Holford TR, Trentham-Dietz A. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev. 2015 Jun; 24(6):905-12. doi: 10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-14-1286. Epub 2015 Mar 18. PMID: 25787716.

[Gene-centric approach identifies new and known loci for FVIII activity and VWF antigen levels in European Americans and African Americans.](#) Tang W, **Cushman M**, Green D, Rich SS, Lange LA, Yang Q, Tracy RP, Tofler GH, Basu S, Wilson JG, Keating BJ, Weng LC, Taylor HA, Jacobs DR Jr, Delaney JA, Palmer CD, Young T, Pankow JS, O'Donnell CJ, Smith NL, Reiner AP, Folsom AR. Am J Hematol. 2015 Jun; 90(6):534-40. doi: 10.1002/ajh.24005. Epub 2015 Apr 1. PMID: 25779970.

[Feasibility of implementing molecular-guided therapy for the treatment of patients with relapsed or refractory neuroblastoma.](#) Saulnier Sholler GL, **Bond JP**, Bergendahl G, Dutta A, **Dragon J**, Neville K, Ferguson W, Roberts W, Eslin D, Kraveka J, Kaplan J, Mitchell D, Parikh N, Merchant M, **Ashikaga T**, Hanna G, Lescault PJ, Siniard A, Corneveaux J, Huentelman M, Trent J. Cancer Med. 2015 Jun; 4(6):871-86. doi: 10.1002/cam4.436. Epub 2015 Feb 26. PMID: 25720842.

[Disparities in uptake of BRCA1/2 genetic testing in a randomized trial of telephone counseling.](#) Butrick M, Kelly S, Peshkin BN, Luta G, Nusbaum R, Hooker GW, Graves K, Feeley L, Isaacs C, Valdimarsdottir HB, Jandorf L, DeMarco T, **Wood M, McKinnon W**, Garber J, McCormick SR, Schwartz MD. Genet Med. 2015 Jun; 17(6):467-75. doi: 10.1038/gim.2014.125. Epub 2014 Sep 18. PMID: 25232856.

Funding Opportunities

Green indicates NEW

An extensive list of upcoming, extramural funding opportunities can now be found on the [UVM Cancer Center website](#). This list will be updated monthly, however highlighted opportunities from this larger list will still appear in the eALERT. Please send funding opportunities you'd like to add to the list to [Kate Webster](#).

- [Vilcek Foundation Prizes for Creative Promise in Biomedical Science](#); three foreign-born biomedical scientists to be selected, includes \$50,000 cash award; deadline is **June 15**.
- [Understanding and Promoting Health Literacy \(R21\)](#); applications due in three cycles: **June 16, October 16, 2015 and February 16, 2016**.
- [Basic Cancer Research in Cancer Health Disparities \(R01\)](#); deadline is **June 17, 2015**.
- [NCI Basic Cancer Research in Cancer Health Disparities \(R01\)](#); **deadline is June 17, 2015**.
- [The Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award](#); designed to provide funding to extraordinary early career researchers who have an innovative new idea but lack sufficient preliminary data to obtain traditional funding; **application deadline is July 1, 2015**.
- [UVM Cancer Center Call for ACS IRG projects](#); up-to \$30,000 for one year, and chance to renew for additional year, recognizing junior faculty

teams of a laboratory/behavioral scientist and a physician investigator; **deadline July 20.**

- [DOD Breast Cancer Research Program \(BCRP\) Innovator and Breakthrough Awards](#); **deadline is July 28, 2015.**
- [Collaborative Research Projects to Enhance Applicability of Mouse Models for Translational Research \(Collaborative R01\)](#); **first cycle deadline is August 8, 2015**
- [UVM FUNDING: Fostering Interdisciplinary Scholarship, Arts, & Research" \(FISAR\)](#);

Up to \$200,000 in funding is available; The FISAR Grant Program seeks to identify and promote promising interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research, scholarship and creative arts bridging the participating Colleges. UVM faculty members in COM, CAS, and CEMS who are active in scholarship, research, and/or creative work are eligible to apply; **deadline is October 15, 2015.**

[UVM Cancer Center Research Grants](#)

A full list of all organizations designated by the NCI as providing peer-reviewed funding can be found [here](#).

Ongoing Events

Cancer Biology and Technology Seminar Series (an integrated part of the Biochemistry Seminar Series)
Second Friday of each month at Noon, Given C443.

UVM Cancer Center Grand Rounds

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th
Tuesday 8-9am, MedEd 300

Please refer to the UVM Cancer Center Website for information regarding regularly scheduled tumor board meetings. Information can be found [here](#).

UVM Cancer Center Leadership:

Gary S. Stein, PhD, Director

Claire F. Verschraegen, MD, Deputy Director, Cancer Service Line Director

Kate Webster, CRA, Research Center Administrator

Sarah Keblin, Communications Manager

