

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, July 23, 2015

Buffum Endowment Reception and Dedication of Waiting Area

New Faculty Announcement: Alissa Thomas, MD, Neuro-oncology

Cancer Awareness Night at the Lake Monsters: August 5

Cancer Biology Course Offered by Biochemistry

UVM Cancer Center in the NEWS

Spotlight on Technology Services: BIOBANK

Publications and Announcements

Funding Opportunities- NEW LISTINGS THIS WEEK

Ongoing Events

Event Spotlight

Buffum Endowment Funds Updates to
Oncology Clinic Waiting Room

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!

[18th Annual Women's Health and Breast Cancer Conference](#)

Friday, October 2, 2015
Sheraton, Burlington

Provider Track
Offered lease refer
patients!

Events Calendar

July 2015

UV Safety Month

[27-30 UVM Hosts 2015 Stem Cell Conference](#): *Stem Cells, Cell Therapies, and Bio-engineering in Lung Biology and Diseases*; UVM faculty, staff and students invited at discounted rate (see email announcement for code, or, contact [CME](#)).

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 J. Walter Juckett Distinguished Lecture, "The roles of non-coding RNA in

On July 8, 2014 the UVM Cancer Center held a dedication ceremony and reception honoring the support of the Victoria Buffum Endowment for recent renovations to the hematology/oncology waiting area. The event also served to honor long-time Buffum committee member and supporter Margaret Coates. A commissioned triptych by local artist Elizabeth Allen was dedicated in Margaret's memory, providing beautiful views from Coates Island on Lake Champlain in the new waiting area.

The Victoria Buffum Endowment continues to provide ongoing support for cancer patient support services and programs at the University of Vermont Cancer Center. To learn more about the Fund, [click here](#).



David Coates, husband of Margaret Coates, speaks at the recent hematology/oncology waiting area reception and dedication.

New Faculty Announcement: Alissa Thomas, MD Neuro-Oncology

In collaboration with the department of Neurology, the Hematology and Oncology clinic welcomes Alissa Thomas, MD to the team. Thomas joins the UVM Cancer Center from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center where she recently completed a Neuro-Oncology fellowship following multiple residencies at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. She will have a primary appointment within the department of Neurology and will join the hematology/oncology clinic team one day per week (Tuesday), effective this week.

Thomas presented this week at a UVM Neurological

cancer," 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

1 [Cocktails Curing Cancer](#) event to benefit the UVM Cancer Center and the American Cancer Society; Catamount Country Club.

2 [18th Annual Women's Health and Breast Cancer Conference](#).

5-7 [Obesity & Metabolism: An Emerging Frontier in Lung Health and Disease](#), hosted by Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at UVM; abstracts being accepted until July 31, 2015.

14-16 [UVM Hosts Northeast Regional Life Sciences Core Directors Conference \(NERLSCD\)](#); Hilton, Burlington, VT and UVM Campus.

November 2015

Lung and Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month

6 **SAVE THE DATE: UVM Cancer Center Annual Member Retreat; UVM Davis Center.**

Sciences Seminar on *Emerging Therapy for Glioblastoma*--sharing some of her research interests in the field of Neuro-Oncology.

The clinic will be scheduling a meet-and-greet in the near future with Thomas. Please be sure to welcome her to the team!

ACS Cancer Survivors Night at Lake Monsters: August 5



The Lake Monsters and the American Cancer Society will host a cancer awareness night on August 5, 2015. Free tickets are available for survivors and one guest to the 7 PM game (gates open at 6 PM) . Please contact Amy Deavitt at the American Cancer Society if you

would like to request tickets (amy.deavitt@cancer.org or (802) 872-6316). Providers are encouraged to refer patients!

Fall Cancer Biology Course Offered

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



Jim Wallace, MD, took part in the live radio show, "The Vermont Conversation," on WDEV to discuss cancer care in Vermont. To listen to the broadcast, [click here](#).

Spotlight on Technology Services: Biobank

The UVM Cancer Center Biobank Core Facility and shared resource provides fresh-frozen surgical resection specimens of tumor and (when possible) normal tissues to UVM Cancer Center and Medical Center researchers*. The facility is managed and operated by the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, whose staff and faculty also provide expertise and consultation in utilizing Biobank resources.

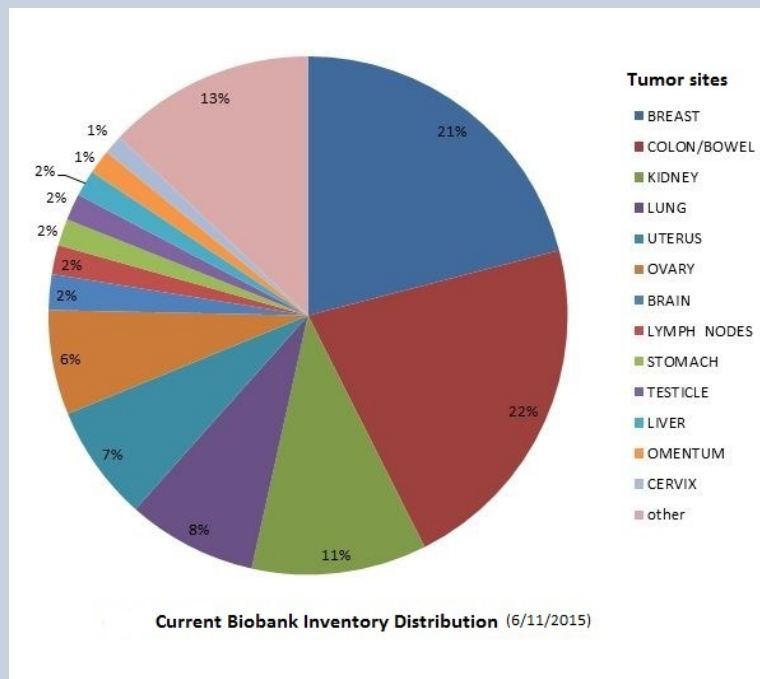
In 2014 Biobank operations were extensively revised. On average 30+ new specimens are now collected each month. These are graded and catalogued according to the time interval between surgical excision and flash freezing. The Biobank is also now collecting skin tumor excisions from Mohs surgery outpatients.

Services are currently provided at no cost to UVM investigators and include:

- Biobank database search for required/desired specimens.
- Retrieval and distribution of de-identified/coded banked specimens.
- Potential for customized collection of specific sample types through consultation with Biobank personnel.
- Guidance with respect to requirements for protection of human subjects, tissue ownership, limitations on tissue utilization, and responsibilities to UVM.

**Any cancer research that involves human subjects requires UVM Cancer Center PRMC and UVM IRB approvals and requires that investigators have completed the "Protection of Human Subjects in Research" tutorial (available [here](#)).*

For more information, or to reach the Biobank, visit their [webpage](#), or, contact Technical Director [Mark Evans](#), or Sr. Technologist [Christine Adamson](#).



Publications and Announcements

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

Publications:

Persing S, Jerome MA, **James TA**, Callas P, Mace J, **Sowden M**, **Goodwin A**, **Weaver DL**, **Sprague BL**. Surgical margin reporting in breast conserving surgery: [Does compliance with guidelines affect re-excision and mastectomy rates?](#) Breast. 2015 Jul 18. pii: S0960-9776(15)00135-6. doi: 10.1016/j.breast.2015.06.007. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 26199197.

Lanktree MB, Elbers CC, Li Y, Zhang G, Duan Q, Karczewski KJ, Guo Y, Tragante V, North KE, **Cushman M**, Asselbergs FW, Wilson JG, Lange LA, Drenos F, Reiner AP, Barnes MR, Keating BJ. [Genetic meta-analysis of 15,901 African Americans identifies variation in EXOC3L1 is associated with HDL concentration](#). J Lipid

Res. 2015 Jul 21. pii: jlr.P059477. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 26199122.

Fritz A, Barutcu AR, Martin-Buley L, van Wijnen AJ, **Zaidi SK**, Imbalzano AN, **Lian JB**, **Stein JL**, **Stein GS**. [Chromosomes at Work: Organization of Chromosome Territories in the Interphase Nucleus](#). J Cell Biochem. 2015 Jul 20. doi: 10.1002/jcb.25280. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 26192137.

Weivoda MM, Ruan M, Hachfeld CM, Pederson L, **Howe A**, Davey R, Zajac J, Kobayashi Y, Williams BO, Westendorf JJ, Khosla S, Oursler MJ. [Wnt Signaling Inhibits Osteoclast Differentiation by Activating Canonical and Non-Canonical cAMP/PKA Pathways](#). J Bone Miner Res. 2015 Jul 18. doi: 10.1002/jbmr.2599. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 26189772.

Newhouse P, **Dumas J**. [Estrogen-Cholinergic Interactions: Implications for Cognitive Aging](#). Horm Behav. 2015 Jul 14. pii: S0018-506X(15)30001-5. doi: 10.1016/j.yhbeh.2015.06.022. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 26187712.

McGee EA, Raj RS. [An Extra Arm May Impair the Open Hand](#). Endocrinology. 2015 Aug; 156(8):2751-2. doi: 10.1210/en.2015-1538. PubMed PMID: 26186159.

Gunter MJ, Wang T, **Cushman M**, Xue X, Wassertheil-Smoller S, Strickler HD, Rohan TE, Manson JE, McTiernan A, Kaplan RC, Scherer PE, Chlebowski RT, Snetselaar L, Wang D, Ho GY. [Circulating Adipokines and Inflammatory Markers and Postmenopausal Breast Cancer Risk](#). J Natl Cancer Inst. 2015 Jul 16; 107(9). pii: djv169. doi: 10.1093/jnci/djv169. Print 2015 Sep. PubMed PMID: 26185195.

Ji Y, Schwartz J, Hartford A, **Ramsey J**, Phillips J, **Verschraegen C**. [Successful Treatment of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer With Erlotinib Throughout Pregnancy](#). JAMA Oncol. 2015 Jul 9. doi: 10.1001/jamaoncol.2015.1300. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 26181671.

Ojelade SA, Jia T, Rodan AR, Chenyang T, Kadrmas JL, Cattrell A, Ruggeri B, Charoen P, Lemaitre H, Banaschewski T, Büchel C, Bokde AL, Carvalho F, Conrod PJ, Flor H, Frouin V, Gallinat J, Garavan H, **Gowland PA**, Heinz A, Ittermann B, Lathrop M, Lubbe S, Martinot JL, Paus T, Smolka MN, Spanagel R, O'Reilly PF, Laitinen J, Veijola JM, Feng J, Desrivières S, Jarvelin MR; IMAGEN Consortium, Schumann G, Rothenfluh A. [Rsu1 regulates ethanol consumption in Drosophila and humans](#). Proc

Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2015 Jul 13. pii: 201417222. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 26170296.

Kien CL, Matthews DE, Poynter ME, Bunn JY, **Fukagawa NK**, Crain KI, Ebenstein DB, Tarleton EK, Stevens RD, Koves TR, Muoio DM. [Increased palmitate intake: higher acylcarnitine concentrations without impaired progression of \$\beta^2\$ -oxidation](#). J Lipid Res. 2015 Jul 8. pii: jlr.M060137. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID:26156077.

Long PM, **Tighe SW**, Driscoll HE, Fortner KA, Viapiano MS, **Jaworski DM**. [Acetate supplementation as a means of inducing glioblastoma stem-like cell growth arrest](#). J Cell Physiol. 2015 Aug;230(8):1929-43. doi: 10.1002/jcp.24927. PubMed PMID: 25573156; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4414874.

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](#).

- [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**
- [DoD Horizon Award](#); supports junior level scientists to conduct impactful research with the mentorship of an experienced cancer researcher, pre- and post-doctoral fellows are eligible; \$75,000 for up to one year; **deadline is August 11, 2015**.
- [UVM Engaged Practices Innovation \(EPI\) Grant Program](#); to stimulate development of innovative projects that increase student engagement; **deadline for spring 2016 projects is October 1, 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 Koblin, Communications Manager