2023 Awardees

Student: Kathleen Waeldner  
Mentor: Christopher Anker, MD  
Department: Radiation Oncology  
Research Project: Non-operative management paradigm clinical trial with rectal cancer patients

Student: Erin Mathieu  
Mentor: Jon Boyson, PhD  
Department: Surgery  
Research Project: Conducting the preliminary characterization of the B16F10 melanoma model in mice.

Student: Anika Advant  
Mentor: Jan Carney, MD, MPH  
Department: Med-Pulmonary  

Student: John Rustad  
Mentor: Frances Carr, PhD  
Department: Pharmacology  
Research Project: Establishing that bromodomain inhibitors in combination with agonist selective activation of the tumor suppressor TRb would be a novel therapeutic option.

Student: Kanayo Ikeh  
Mentor: Nimrat Chatterjee, MSc, PhD  
Department: Microbiology and Molecular Genetics  
Research Project: Understanding the role of translesion synthesis in cancer resistance to therapy.

Student: Ava Cote  
Mentor: Brian Cunniff, PhD  
Department: Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
Research Project: Evaluating molecular mechanism by which the new mesothelioma drug thiostrepton elicits cell death.

Student: Logan Sands  
Mentor: Paula Deming, PhD
UVMCC Summer Student Fellowships
Past Awardees

**Department:** Biomedical and Health Sciences  
**Research Project:** Investigating the effects of STK11 on ER+ breast cancers.

**Student:** Cong Gao  
**Mentor:** Seth Frietze, PhD  
**Department:** Biomedical and Health Science  
**Research Project:** Establishing some analysis parameters to study the RNA and protein expression patterns in distinct regions of breast tumors using available data.

**Student:** Myeongjin Bae  
**Mentor:** Nancy Gell, PT, PhD, MPH  
**Department:** Rehab & Movement Science  
**Research Project:** Conducting a longitudinal study that comparing fall trajectories, based on physical function impairment at baseline, in older cancer survivors to those without a cancer history.

**Student:** Ian Orsmond  
**Mentor:** Karen Glass, PhD  
**Department:** Biochemistry  
**Research Project:** Understanding how bromodomain-containing proteins contribute to the development of Tamoxifen resistance in breast cancer.

**Student:** Kassandra Mastras  
**Mentor:** Marc Greenblatt, MD  
**Department:** Med-Hematology Oncology  
**Research Project:** Participating in the curation process and evaluating evidence to develop the rules for classifying MUTYH variants as either pathogenic or benign.

**Student:** Hayden Christensen  
**Mentor:** Melanie Bui, MD, PhD  
**Department:** Med-Dermatology  
**Research Project:** Conducting a retrospective chart review to describe oncologic outcomes for invasive squamous cell carcinoma of the skin.

**Student:** Abigail Wootton  
**Mentor:** Nataniel Lester-Coll, MD  
**Department:** Radiation Oncology  
**Research Project:** Conducting a chart review/database build in order to examine the association between hydrid technique and patient side effects.
UVMCC Summer Student Fellowships
Past Awardees

**Student:** Mikaela Mari  
**Mentor:** Puyao Li, MD  
**Department:** Radiation Oncology  
**Research Project:** Conducting multiple retrospective studies looking at outcomes and toxicity of radiation treatment for breast and gyn cancers.

**Student:** Amy Chang  
**Mentor:** Sarah Nowak, PhD  
**Department:** Pathology & Laboratory Medicine  
**Research Project:** Evaluating factors associated with the decline in mammography screening utilization in Vermont and the US over the past decade.

**Student:** Petergaye Murray  
**Mentor:** Conor O’Neill, MD  
**Department:** Surg-Oncology  
**Research Project:** Coordinating data collection and data instrument validation for the prehabilitation project, engaging dedicated nutrition services to ensure timely nutrition interventions.

**Student:** Jenna Eaton  
**Mentor:** David Seward, MD, PhD  
**Department:** Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
**Research Project:** Identifying putative molecular network alterations that might inform anti-PD-1 therapy response.

**Student:** Priyanka Chavarkar  
**Mentor:** Gary Stein, PhD  
**Department:** Biochemistry  
**Research Project:** Investigating cancer-compromised genetic and epigenetic control of prefoliation and differentiation.

**Student:** Petra Kapsalis  
**Mentor:** Jason Stumpff, PhD  
**Department:** Molecular Physiology & Biophysics  
**Research Project:** Understanding the molecular basis of CIN cell dependence on KIF18A.

**Student:** Isabella Sutherland  
**Mentor:** Alissa Thomas, MD  
**Department:** Neurological Sciences
Research Project: Determining the timing and evolution of post-radiation changes for IDH-mutant low grade glioma (astrocytoma and oligodendroglioma, grade 2 and 3).

2022 Awardees

Student: Jennifer Chen  
Mentor: Thomas Ahern, PhD, MPH  
Department: Surgery  
Research Project: Racial and geographic disparities in breast lymphedema

Student: Randi Gravelle  
Mentor: Brian Cunniff, PhD  
Department: Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
Research Project: Mitochondrial dynamics support breast cancer tumorigenesis

Student: Kanayo Ikeh  
Mentor: Nimrat Chatterjee, MSc, PhD  
Department: Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics  
Research Project: Unraveling the functional dynamics of REV1 during cancer cell response to therapy

Student: Ellen Mats  
Mentor: Shahid Ahmed, MBBS  
Department: Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology and Oncology  
Research Project: The Influence of Bacteria on the Formation of an Immune-Escaped Bladder Cancer: A Pilot Correlative Study

Student: Gopika Nandagopal  
Mentor: Alan Howe PhD  
Department: Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
Research Project: Investigating the STK11 C-terminal domain in lung cancer

Student: Arjune Nibber  
Mentor: David Seward, MD, PhD  
Department: Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
Research Project: Characterization of STK11 Missense Variants Using Prime Editing

Student: Shannon Prior  
Mentor: Paula Deming, PhD
UVMCC Summer Student Fellowships
Past Awardees

**Department:** Biomedical and Health Sciences  
**Research Project:** Investigating metabolic rewiring in progression of STK11-null lung cancer: glutamine dependence and the hexosamine biosynthetic pathway

**Student:** Alyssa Richman  
**Mentor:** Seth Frietze, PhD  
**Department:** Biomedical and Health Science  
**Research Project:** Epigenetic Analysis of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

**Student:** Jennifer Toner  
**Mentor:** Peter Kaufman, MD  
**Department:** Hematology & Oncology  
**Research Project:** Correlating Properties of Breast Cancer Organoids to Patient's Tumor Information

**2021 Awardees**

**Student:** Alqassem Abuarqoub  
**Mentor:** James Stafford, PhD  
**Department:** Neurological Sciences  
**Research Project:** Targeting novel metabolic and epigenetic interactions in pediatric high grade glioma

**Student:** Rachel Bombardier  
**Mentor:** David Krag, MD  
**Department:** Surgery  
**Research Project:** COVID-19 and Cancer

**Student:** Amy Chang  
**Mentor:** Alissa Thomas, MD  
**Department:** Neurological Sciences  
**Research Project:** The effect of frailty score on treatment decisions and overall survival rate in elderly patients with glioblastoma

**Student:** Trevor Coles  
**Mentor:** Gary Stein, PhD  
**Department:** Biochemistry  
**Research Project:** Cancer-Compromised Epigenetic Control of Nucleolar Function

**Student:** Linda Cui
Mentor: Nataniel Lester-Coll, MD  
Department: Radiation Oncology  
Research Project: Adult Prostate Sarcoma: An Analysis of the National Cancer Database

Student: Sean Lenahan  
Mentor: David Seward, MD, PhD  
Department: Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
Research Project: GLUL repression may exacerbate anti-PD1 therapy resistance in KRAS-driven NSCLCs lacking STK11

Student: Kiera Malone  
Mentor: Karen Glass, PhD  
Department: Biochemistry  
Research Project: Recruitment of the AAA domain-containing protein 2 to nucleosomes

Student: Mikaela Mohardt  
Mentor: Brian Sprague, PhD  
Department: Surgery  
Research Project: Collagen organization as a novel predictor of malignant potential in pre-invasive breast cancer

Student: Allison Morrissey  
Mentor: Andrea Lee, PhD  
Department: Microbiology and Molecular Genetics  
Research Project: The Role of Two Histidine Residues in MutY Glycosylase Detection of 8-oxoguanine:Adenine DNA Damage Sites

Student: Joaquin Reategui  
Mentor: Andrea Villanti, PhD, MPH  
Department: Psychiatry  
Research Project: Does dose or type of vaping prevention messaging impact vaping-related beliefs and behaviors in Vermont young adults?

Student: Kayla Sohl  
Mentor: Frances Carr, PhD  
Department: Pharmacology  
Research Project: Synergistic effects of JQ1 and TRbeta in tumor suppression
Student: Joshua A. Victor
Mentor: Nimrat Chatterjee, PhD
Department: Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
Research Project: Ascertaining SARS-COV2-dependent DNA damage response in human cells